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12 May 1982

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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PRESIDENT ATTENDS PROVINCIAL PLANNING MEETING

EA302218 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the republic, returned to Luanda yesterday from Malanje Province where he had been paying a working visit since 26 April at the head of a party and government delegation.

In Malanje Province Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos chaired a meeting of the coordination commission for the economic and social development of the province held from 27-28 April. Here are the final conclusions of that important meeting:

1. The drawing up of a program to coordinate the projects to be implemented. They called for the establishment of a team of technicians in different sectors who will be directly linked with the projects to be implemented. The team will be under the chairmanship of the director for provincial planning of the Ministry of Planning. Accordingly, the planning minister will produce guidelines for the coordination program with the (?following in mind):

Para 1: The first phase of priority work will be implemented from the second half of this year for the solution of current problems, in particular housing for national and foreign cadres, improvement of the water and electricity supply systems to Malanje town and improvement of communications and the (?supply) national cadres to the province.

Para B: A second phase will cover the development projects approved for implementation in Malanje Province. These projects will be included in the national plan as from 1983.

2. The Council of Ministers will activate and monitor the implementation of the program.

3. The team of technicians mentioned in point 1 above will propose to the Council of Ministers the necessary human, material and financial resources to be concentrated in the province and will also ensure the implementation of the program.

4. The relevant specialized industrial sectors existing in the country should be used for the construction of corn dryers and silos.

5. A team of foreign experts will be assigned to repair some buildings in Malanje town.

6. The center for professional training in the textile industry will be located in Malanje Province for the training of specialized workers in the textile sector.

CSO: 4742/293

UNITA ACTIVITIES, POLITICAL SITUATION REVIEWED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 8, 14 Apr 82 pp 1-3

[Text]

Since December a diplomatic merry-go-round, with Luanda at the hub of the wheel, has been gathering speed so fast that the participants seem unable to decide whether the frenetic movement is leading anywhere worthwhile.

If there is to be any chance of getting **South African** approval of all the stages leading to **Namibian** independence, it is clear to all, including Luanda, that concessions must be made to Pretoria. Angola needs peace more than South Africa does, at least in the foreseeable future. And with South African raids pushing ever deeper into Angola's Cunene province, the pressure increases on Luanda to negotiate a) the conditional withdrawal of **Cuban** troops north of a prescribed line and the reduction of their total number, and b) terms for somehow including **Jonas Savimbi** — ultimately through political accommodation — in the complex of domestic cum regional negotiations.

Whether it will be possible to maintain the momentum towards a resolution of Angola's internal problems if the South Africans (AC Vol 23 No 6) want to postpone indefinitely the Namibian negotiations, depends on whether the South African defence force can be persuaded to end its raids into Angola and its support for UNITA. The South African treasury may be most influential.

Superimposed on all this is US policy (AC Vol 23 No 1), which includes the reduction of Cuban troops, and less publicly, an insistence that MPLA is at least seen to be open to talks with Savimbi. For some time the latter has regularly sent letters to **Portuguese** officials, including President **Eanes**, in an effort to have Lisbon persuade the MPLA to talk with UNITA. Overleaf we examine in more detail what has happened on this front.

Angola's weakness is still caused by the twin devils

of economic near-collapse and increasing physical insecurity. About 80% of foreign exchange still comes from oil receipts, principally through *Gulf's* Cabinda operations, but the rest of the economy, especially the once prosperous agricultural sector, is in a shambles. Food shortages are rife in all the major towns, including Luanda, while administration outside the capital remains feeble.

Security has probably deteriorated in the past year on every front:

1. South African military intervention has sharply increased. Attacks against SWAPO bases and other points throughout the Angolan infrastructure have occurred ever since independence. Now, however, there is a more concerted South African effort to paralyse not just SWAPO but Angola as a whole. Incursions last longer and go deeper — often over 150 miles into Angola. The province of Cunene, in the far south, has been systematically attacked since August. Since November, it has been effectively held as a South African 'buffer zone'. In November a highly skilled attack on the main oil refinery in Luanda itself, perhaps by South African supported seaborne commandos, greatly demoralised the Angolan leadership.

2. UNITA, with substantial South African logistical support, has expanded its activity as well. Its activity can be divided into several spheres:

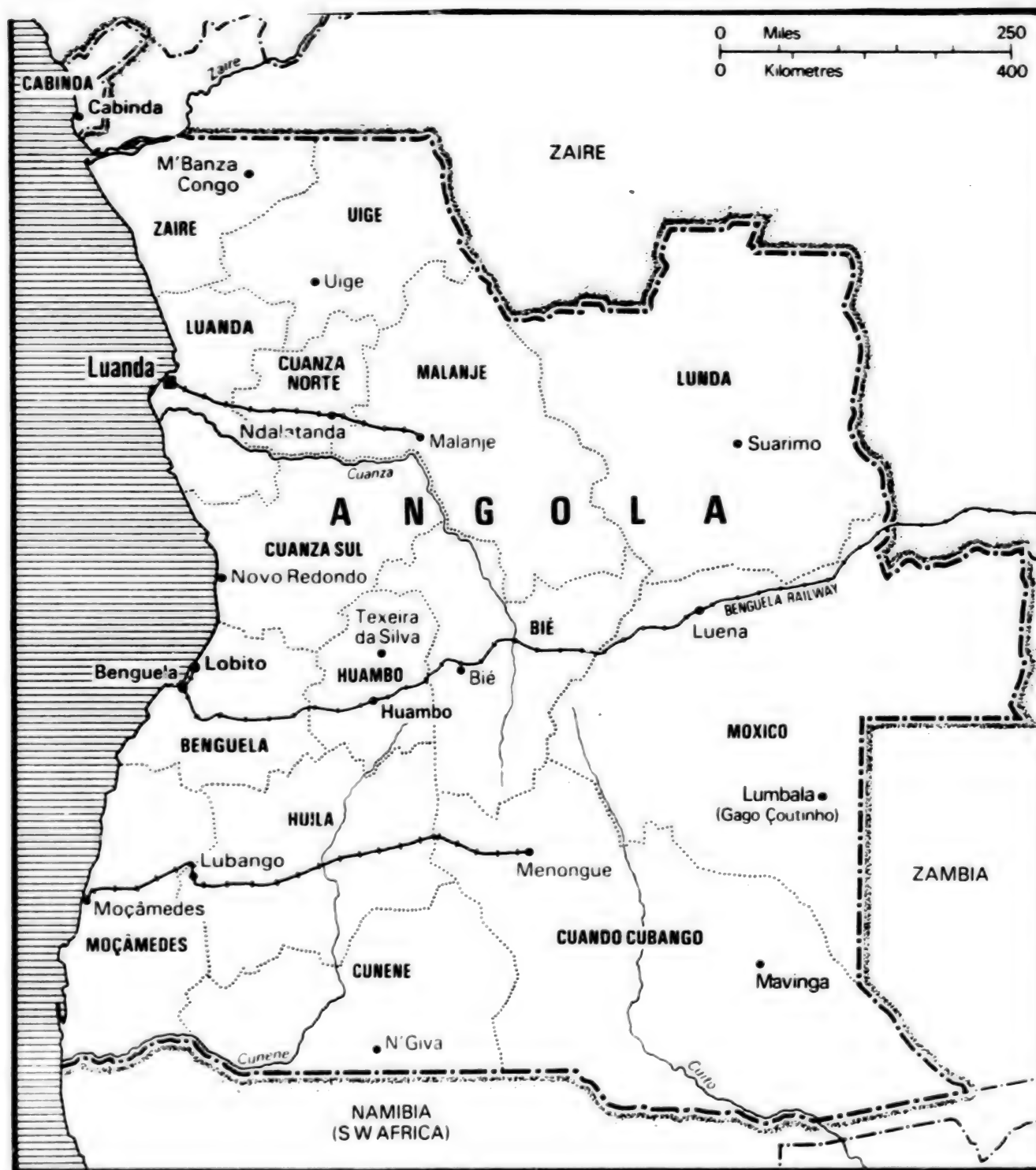
a) There is some evidence that in all the provinces adjacent to the Namibian border, South African forces capture small towns that are then invested (sometimes temporarily) by UNITA troops.

b) UNITA still infiltrates deep into the southern and south-western provinces of Cunene, Mocimedes and Huila, organising its own military activity as far north as the provincial centre of Menongue (formerly Serpa Pinto).

c) UNITA controls — in the fullest sense — much of the sparsely populated south-eastern provinces of Cuando Cubango and Moxico, centred on the small town of Mavinga, where Western journalists have reported no government resistance to the UNITA presence. Military activity, however, is expanding from the region northwards towards Gago Coutinho and north-westwards towards the central plateau.

d) UNITA continues to sabotage the Benguela railway at will, with an average of one action a day, along the length of the line, and causes a serious derailment every week. What is particularly notable is that the incidents are evenly spread all along the line, whereas two years ago they were concentrated along the central strip around Huambo and Bie.

e) In January, railway officials noticed a lull in UNITA activity. Subsequently it appeared that this marked a major movement of UNITA forces north of the railway. This dovetails with reports of greater UNITA activity in the north of the central plateau. There has been an increase in UNITA diamond smuggling towards the north-east. Towards the end of last year there were military attacks on the town of Cela in Cuanza Sul province within a hundred miles of Luanda. Aid organisations have reported continu-



ing security problems north of the railway line. The Red Cross is unable to maintain food distribution centres south of it, although between 300,000 and 500,000 displaced persons (the number alters with climatic and security variations) still need help.

(1) UNITA is beginning to emphasise political rather than military aims, particularly its readiness to accept UN-

supervised elections. Since the Ovimbundu, Jonas Savimbi's own ethnic group, number between 35% and 40% of the Angolan population (by far the biggest single group), UNITA believes it has the largest single block of support. This year is being named 'The Year of the Demilitarisation of the Revolution'. A party congress is expected within two months, to re-elect the 30-strong central

committee and 19-strong politburo. UNITA morale appears high.

3. The virtually defunct FNLA, once under **Holden Roberto**, has partially resurrected itself in a revamped military form under **Paolo Tuba** and **Henrik Vaal Neto** heading the new COMIRA faction. Holden is out for good and in Paris (AC Vol 22 No 14), but according to some reports (including **J. Regan Kerney** in the *International Herald Tribune* in mid-December and more explicitly, left-wing Portuguese press reports), activity in the coffee-rich Uige and Zaire regions has recommenced. **French** mercenaries are allegedly involved.

4. The splintered Cabindan secessionist movement FLEC has again been seeking funds, in the USA and elsewhere, though military results have not been confirmed. The two factions, one under **Luis Franque Ranque** (based in Gabon), the other led by **Nzita Henriques Tiago** with his military commander **Victor Jorge Gomes**, are promising another bout of disaffection.

The Cubans, still estimated at between 15,000 and 19,000 throughout Angola, plus 5,000 technicians and other personnel, do little fighting, but secure the towns and the oil installations. The FAPLA forces (the official Angolan army) are reported to have improved. In particular, there have been efforts to recruit from among the Ovimbundu of the central plateau. But for the government in Luanda the overall security picture is bleak.

It is difficult to assess whether the Angolan-Senegambian thaw spells good news or bad for UNITA. President **Abdou Diouf**, less conservative than ex-President **Léopold Senghor**, may have decided to end his favours to Savimbi, or he may be interceding on his behalf. UNITA is probably exaggerating the degree of its involvement in the American-Portuguese diplomatic efforts. But Savimbi's success in keeping his movement alive — suggests that he must indeed play a part in the diplomatic jigsaw.

The extent of concessions that the Portuguese and especially the Americans are trying to extract from the Angolans in favour of the South Africans and their UNITA protégés may be too much for Luanda to tolerate. Indeed, **Soviet** influence may well also urge against concessions, although there have been suggestions that Moscow and Havana are increasingly disenchanted by the prospect of further years of propping up the Luanda government.

The MPLA elite is itself sharply divided by the current diplomatic wrangle. The party remains broadly split between the idealogues and the "Africanists" (nationalists) (AC Vol 21 No 4 and AC Vol 22 No 9).

Although to divide the MPLA, and its politburo in particular, into "black" and "mestizo-white" factions is an oversimplification, racial factors are increasingly important. The Africanists, usually black, have more weight in government and in the ministries, but the ideologues, more drawn to Moscow, still hold sway in the party machine and in the information and press apparatus. The same schisms are apparent in the army and in the people's militia (ODP), though a growing majority of senior officers and most of the ranks are Africanists.

Of the Africanists, **Roberto d'Almeida** and **Manuel Pacavira** are strong, but the star of the erratic ODP boss **Domingo Paiva** has fallen, while **Mendes de Carvalho**, leader of the so-called "Catete Group" of black nationalists hostile to white and mestizo influence (above all to that of **Lucio Lara**), was briefly said to be in disgrace. However, such reports seemed to be scotched when he reappeared as head of an international delegation. **Lopo do Nascimento**, virtually exiled by the dying President **Agostinho Neto**, has recovered much influence and is increasingly important within the Africanist camp, which is more enthusiastic for a rapprochement with the west and probably even with UNITA, though the exclusion of Savimbi is often mooted as part of any deal ●

CSO: 4700/1166

ANGOLA

FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF NATION VIEWED

AB021413 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 2 May 82

[By Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Luanda, 2 May (AFP)--The war against internal opposition and South African incursions--which has disrupted the Angolan economy--has made the country even more dependent on oil, its main source of revenue, at a time when even the largest producers are facing serious difficulties.

The oil glut and the resulting drop in sales had made Angola--still a small producer with under seven million tons last year--limit its ambitions somewhat. Priority now is on consolidating development projects underway in its offshore fields, notably off the enclave of Cabinda, where oil installations are protected by Cubans as well as Angola troops.

But an informed source said the aim was still to increase production to 10 million tons a year, or 200,000 barrels a day by 1985 compared with 140,000 barrels a day at the beginning of this year.

Following a decline in other sectors of the economy, oil now brings in almost 90 percent of export revenue. War and general insecurity is the principal explanation for the spectacular slump in coffee production, which now stands at 15-20,000 metric tons a year, compared with 240,000 before independence in 1975.

The drop in crude oil prices on the world market thus hits Angola still harder than the major producers in the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) of which Angola is not a member.

The government budgeted for receipts from oil of around 2,000 million dollars in 1981. But pressure on prices and a slight fall in production of certain fields due to technical difficulties has cut income by more than a quarter of this figure.

Thus, the Angolan authorities are following with keen attention developments on the international market and OPEC efforts to stabilize prices by curtailing production.

At the same time, Angola, which already has excellent relations with the major U.S. and European oil companies which operate on its territory, is apparently also seeking closer cooperation, notably with European countries, to boost its sales in the future.

The good-quality light Angolan crude is normally closely tied to the price of Arabian light, plus the surcharges normal for African oil. The last official price, fixed at the beginning of January 1981, was 38.75 dollars a barrel, but Erminio Escorcio, director-general of the Angola National Oil Company (SONANGOL) said that in fact he was currently negotiating individual prices with each client.

This seems to confirm that Angolan oil is currently fetching around spot prices of the free market.

SONANGOL's largest collaborator remains the U.S. giant Gulf Oil, which operates off Cabinda and was producing 85,000 barrels a day at the beginning of this year, more than 60 percent of the nation's total.

Other producers are PETRANGOL (a consortium of SONANGOL and Belgium's PETROFINA) and U.S. Texaco, but a newcomer is French ELF, which has already made two sizeable strikes.

The Angolan offshore fields south of Cabinda have been divided into 13 blocks, of which five have already been assigned to producers, including other European and American companies, and a Brazilian undertaking. An informed source said the authorities would only be assigning one new block this year, to PETROBRAS of Brazil with the participation of PETROFINA and SONANGOL.

In Cabinda, Gulf's employees live 15 kilometers (10 miles) outside the town of Malongo, in a city built especially for them. All their food and other necessities are imported directly from abroad, there is no direct benefit of oil riches for the local population. In this context the authorities are examining the possibility of developing agricultural projects at Soyo, in southern Cabinda, to encourage the oil firms to invest locally instead of importing everything.

Oil industry bosses expect to see an increase in production in the long term, following the discoveries by ELF and new fields developed by Gulf, and in the shorter term by forcing out more oil with the injection of gas into Gulf's existing wells.

U.S. banks, notably Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty Trust and Import-Export, have already agreed to grant Angola--which has no diplomatic relations with Washington--loans covering tens of millions of dollars in oil investment.

According to experts, this is the best proof that Angola possesses in its oil reserves a very important asset for its economy which is latently very rich in spite of the enormous difficulties it is currently experiencing.

CSO: 4700/1165

EANES VISIT BRINGS BRIGHT TRADE PROSPECTS WITH PORTUGAL

London WEST AFRICA in English 26 Apr 82 p 1166

[Text]

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes has returned to Lisbon after a five-day visit to Angola saying relations between Lisbon and its former West African colony had entered a new era.

General Eanes, who was accompanied on his trip to Luanda by several members of Portugal's right wing government, said the Portuguese mission to Angola had achieved much more than it could ever have expected.

Announcing a gesture of Angolan goodwill, General Eanes said President Jose Eduardo dos Santos had promised that three Portuguese political prisoners, including a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Portuguese army, held in Luanda for the last six years, would soon be freed.

The thaw in relations between Lisbon and its former colony was highlighted by a new boost to trade when Angola provisionally awarded a Portuguese consortium a \$200m. contract during the President's visit to Luanda.

The contract, for raising the level of the Cambambe Dam and increasing its generating capacity, is the single biggest awarded to Portuguese firms since Angola's independence. The dam, built by the Portuguese on the Kwanza river in 1972, supplies most of Luanda's electricity.

Angola is pushing for a 15-year credit on the project, which will take five years to complete, and the only question mark hanging over the contract is whether Portugal can come up with a satisfactory financial offer, according to Angolan officials.

The Portuguese industry minister Sr. Ricardo Bayao Horta said the government, which must provide the credits for the project, felt that it was essential everything should be done to make sure the contract went to Portuguese firms.

Angola has also asked Portugal to consider the possibility of taking a stake in coffee, sugar, cotton, sisal and fruit production in the country.

Before independence, Angola was the world's fifth ranked coffee producer and the second biggest sisal grower in Africa after Tanzania. Agricultural production slumped dramatically after the Portuguese left in 1975.

Angolan officials said the Luanda government had also agreed to allow Portuguese firms to take a stake in a certain number of Angolan companies and that Angola would itself be investing in Portuguese companies.

The two countries had also agreed that Angola would not allow foreign companies to sub-contract to Portuguese firms unless there was a firm economic justification. "If Portuguese companies are to do the actual work on a project, we want to deal with them directly and award them the contract," a senior official stressed.

During his stay in Angola, President Eanes had a number of meetings with President Dos Santos and met Sr. Sam Nujoma, head of the Angolan-backed South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) which is fighting South Africa for the independence of Namibia.

After the meeting the SWAPO leader said Portugal could play an important role as a NATO member and applicant to the European Economic Community (EEC) in enlisting western support for Namibian independence.

ANGOLA

BRIEFS

OIL FIND NEAR ZAIRE RIVER--Luanda, 24 Apr (ANGOP)--The Angolan National Petroleum Company [SONANGOL] yesterday announced in Luanda the discovery of oil in an offshore zone situated at the south of the mouth of the Zaire River named block three, by the French Company ELF-Aquitaine, the JORNAL DE ANGOLA, the Angolan capital's daily, stated on Saturday. Tests carried out through the exploration well Pacassa I between 3,328 and 3,337 meters deep, produced a flow of 850 cubic meters to more than 1,000 cubic meters a day. The French company, on the same occasion, confirmed its initial discovery of oil in block three last September following the sinking of the exploration well Palanc I. It is recalled that ELF-Aquitaine's exploration work in Angola, is carried out under a contract sharing production with the national holding company SONANGOL, which led to the establishment of a consortium composed of Mobil, Agip Nartagas and Inanaftaplin. [Text] [AB241330 Luanda ANGOP in French 1120 GMT 24 Apr 82]

OIL PROFITS FOR 1981--Luanda, 30 Apr (ANGOP)--The Petrangol Refinery, the only one in the People's Republic of Angola, made a profit of 629,390,940 kwanzas (about \$20.9 million), states the 1981 activity report to the board of directors of this oil company. In 1981, the company, of which the Angolan state, through SONANGOL, owns 78 percent of the shares and the Belgian company Petrofina owns 22 percent, refined 1,238,078 metric tons of crude oil, which is 1.2 percent more than in 1980, despite the stoppage in activity in December 1980. Petrangol employs 1,500 workers including 24 foreigners, 39 of whom were passed over by Petrofina and 245 hired on contract. Regarding the training of staff, the company has prepared a vast program which provides for instruction inside the country and abroad for middle and higher-level staff. It should be recalled that an act of sabotage perpetrated by a group of mercenaries on 30 November last year caused substantial damage to the Petrangol reservoirs including the storage and pumping station areas. A distilling unit was also destroyed and this caused activity to stop for about 3 months. [Text] [AB301524 Luanda ANGOP in French 1400 GMT 30 Apr 82]

EXIT RESTRICTIONS RUMORS DENIED--Luanda, 28 Apr (ANGOP)--In a communique published yesterday in Luanda, the constitutional and legal affairs committee of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Angola, denied certain rumors circulating throughout the country to the effect that a restrictive law will be passed regulating the exits of Angolan citizens over a 10-year period, and described them as ridiculous. In this connection, the communique indicates that there is no plan to revise the regulations governing the exit of Angolan citizens traveling abroad and denounces any information to the contrary. The

communique adds that the Angolan state hopes in the near future to review the current regulations with a view to making them more liberal and not more restrictive. The communique stresses that this piece of slanderous information is the result of the deliberate distortion of the reaction to specific statements made by a few Angolan delegates at the last session of the People's Assembly during the discussions on the problems concerning the nationality law. To conclude, the document indicates that such defamation is part of a vast campaign of destabilization organized by the most reactionary international circles aimed at bringing about a brain drain of national cadres.
[Text] [AB281928 Luanda ANGOP in French 1805 GMT 28 Apr 82]

CSO: 4719/867

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE--Praia, 4 May (AFP)--Cape Verde and the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation have signed an agreement giving legal backing to the participation of the fund in various Cape Verde development projects, according to an official announcement in Praia. The agreement was signed between Mr Jose Brito, the Cape Verde secretary of state for co-operation, and Mr Jean Charpentier, director of the central fund's agency in Dakar. During his visit to Cape Verde, Mr Charpentier discussed with Cape Verde officials the modalities for the participation of the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation and defined perspectives for its participation in certain projects such as the hotel in Sal. The central fund is expected to invest Fr 22 million in the building of that hotel. [Text] [AB050633 Paris AFP in French 1328 GMT 4 May 82]

PRESIDENT TO VISIT DPRK, PRC--Praia, 4 May (AFP)--Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira will soon visit North Korea and China, officials said here today. The trips will be the president's first in two years. He will be accompanied by a sizeable delegation from the governing African Party of Independence of Cape Verde. Talks with officials in both countries will center on relations with Cape Verde and ways of strengthening those "friendly" relations. China is presently helping Cape Verde build a national people's assembly here [as received]. [Text] [NC042129 Paris AFP in English 2113 GMT 4 May 82]

CSO: 4700/1165

BRIEFS

VISIT OF OAU DELEGATION--A high-ranking OAU delegation spent 24 hours in Ndjamena where it met the vice president of the GUNT [Transitional National Unity Government], Colonel Kamougue, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Acyl Ahmat. Led by the minister of foreign affairs of Botswana, Archibald Mogwe, current president of the Ministerial Council of the OAU, the delegation arrived on Monday [15 March]. It also includes the assistant secretary general of the OAU, Peter Onu, and the Kenyan minister of foreign affairs, Dr Ouko. The delegation left the following day [16 March] on the regularly scheduled flight. It just took time to deliver to the president of the GUNT a message from the current president of the OAU, President Arap Moi of Kenya. Nevertheless, the OAU representatives reviewed different questions associated with peace efforts in Chad, during the course of a one-hour meeting with Colonel Kamougue. The delegation leader, Archibald Mogwe, avoided telling the press whether the position of the OAU had evolved since the last conference in Nairobi, which adopted a resolution that has been opposed in Chad. Concerning the future conference on reconstruction in Chad, which is to be held in mid-April in Nairobi, Mogwe let it be understood that its success will depend on the evolution of the political and military situation in Chad. He said that the interest of those providing funds for reconstruction is linked to the hope of seeing the "end of the tunnel." Clearly, the OAU diplomat wished to make the Chadian authorities understand that our country will only be able to obtain significant external assistance if it provides better guarantees of peace, security, and stability. [Text] [Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Mar 82 p 15] 5170

UNHCR OFFICIALS'S VISIT--Noel Antoine, chief of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees], has been in Ndjamena since Monday [15 March]. He plans to discuss with Chadian authorities and the leaders of the humanitarian organization in Ndjamena the operation of the assistance program for Chadians who have been repatriated to their country. This program, he said, has developed in a satisfactory way. He confirmed that UNHCR assistance should theoretically end on 31 March 1982. However, there will remain a certain amount of "goods" to be distributed. The UNHCR must determine, together with the Chadian authorities, the procedures for the distribution of food which will not yet have been given to the people by the "official" end of the program. [Text] [Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Mar 82 pp 15-16] 5170

MINISTER'S RETURN FROM TOUR--The minister of justice and the privy seal, Kassire Delwa Koumakoye, returned on Monday [15 March] to Ndjamena, following an extended trip which took him to five countries: Benin, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, and Mauritania. He delivered a message from President Goukouni to the chiefs of state in these countries on the political and military situation in Chad. Kassire said, "The message from President Goukouni was understood and even supported." The minister of justice also firmly explained the Chadian view regarding the Nairobi resolution. He reminded these chiefs of state of the obligations which they assumed concerning Chad at the time of the OAU summit meeting in June 1981. [Text] Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Mar 82 p 16] 5170

GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS END TOURS--The government delegations visiting the Chara-Baguirmi region have all returned to the capital. The delegation led by Dr Facho Balaam, minister of transport, public works, mines, and geology, visited the cities of Lignia, Dourbali, and Massenya. The delegation led by the secretary of state for the interior charged with refugees, Mr Yaoine, and which included the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Yangalbe Passiri, was in the Moyto-Bokoro sector. The members of the cabinet explained to the people they visited the essential aspects of the political and military situation in our country and asked them to support the actions of the GUNT [Transitional National Unity Government]. However, the major interest of these visits was to have allowed the people to explain their problems to the Chadian authorities. The improper actions committed by the combat forces were regularly denounced. [Text] [Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Mar 82 p 16] 5170

CSO: 4719/783

STRENGTHENING OF TRADE UNION LAUDED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 pp 2-3

[Article by Woubetu Taye: "Strengthening AETU"]

[Text] The Second Regular Session of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) has taken note of the significant contributions workers have made through their national organization, the All Ethiopia Trade Union (AETU), towards the revolutionary development campaign and cultural transformation.

AETU was also commended for its continuing struggle for laying the technical and material basis to hasten the transition to socialism. However, the Second Regular Session of the CC of COPWE resolved: "Though AETU has made an impact on all other aspects of the national struggle during its five years of existence, it is imperative that it should be restructured and reorganized to live up to its responsibilities at the current stage the Revolution has attained."

Accordingly, Proclamation No. 222/74 was issued on March 10, 1982 aimed at strengthening and reorganizing AETU. The proclamation states that workers will not be organized in Industrial unions only but also on territorial basis.

The plant unions will be playing a greater role in the future in the protection of the health and welfare of the workers in addition to striving for increased production, care for machinery and other production equipment and the promotion of socialist competition.

Agitation campaigns for the setting up of plant unions were launched on April 3, 1982. Every possible effort was made to familiarize workers with the spirit of the new proclamation and the stage attained by the Revolution at present. This was followed up with the formation of election committees. Beginning yesterday, nominations of candidates for plant unions are underway. Names of candidates who meet the set criteria will be made official to members of the plant unions prior to balloting.

The criteria are: acceptance of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), non-involvement in corruption and embezzlement, non-deprivation of civil rights by court decision, mentally sane, non-addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Included are also the acceptance of Marxism-Leninism, notable contribution towards the establishment of the party of the working people, willingness to organize and lead workers. Faith in collective leadership and responsibility also accounts.

An Ethiopian citizen aged above 21 years can elect or be elected. A member unable to attend the meetings for reasons beyond his control can vote or be elected. Officers of unions at present occupying positions at higher levels can only start the process at the plant union level if they wish to be re-elected.

The plant unions will have 15 executive committee members: a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary. The chairman has to be confirmed by the General Assembly. The remaining 11 members will be assigned to various committees.

To be elected are also three members of the workers control committee.

Structural Set Up

Two or more plant unions of workers in a similar industrial enterprise and having a membership of 100 persons or above will constitute the woreda (district) industrial union. Similarly, the awraja (provincial) industrial union will be made up of two woreda industrial unions. At a higher, level, Administrative regions, two provincial industrial unions will form the Regional Industrial Union which will become part of the National Industrial Union.

The factories in our country being concentrated in a few urban centres, situations arise where the above structural organization can not be strictly adhered to. Special provisions were made in such cases to have workers interests represented.

If plant unions cannot be formed, they will be represented at the district level provided that an industrial union representing their trade exists. This being not fulfilled, they can go higher up the structural ladder and be absorbed at the provincial level. The process will be repeated at still higher levels--up to the National Industrial Union--the requirement at the various levels not being met.

The new and prominent element of the new Labour Proclamation is the establishment of AETU branches on territorial basis in line with government administrative structure: At woreda, awraja and administrative region levels.

The leadership at the territorial level will comprise of members from the eight industrial unions and acts in unison. This did not exist in the previous proclamation.

The new proclamation also allows for the establishment of AETU branches at various administrative levels where normal conditions are not met thus making it possible for workers to be represented in both ways--both trade and territorial.

Representation will be on numerical basis industrially and territorially. 500 members will constitute the AETU Congress. The National Industrial Union Assembly will comprise of the executive committee members and representatives of the Regional Industrial Unions from among which a Central and Control Committee of the Industrial Union will be elected.

Central Committee members of the National Industrial Union will be chairmen and members elected from among the Regional Industrial Unions. Members of the executive committee at the national level will not be less than five or more than seven. The workers control committees of the National Industrial Union will have three members.

The AETU Congress will be constituted of the executive committees of the National Industrial Unions, Regional AETU branch executive committees and representatives of workers in the various administrative regions. From among the Congress, members will be elected to AETU Central Council and Control Committee.

The AETU Central Council members will be: executive committee members of the National Industrial Unions, chairmen of the regional AETU branches, and individuals to be elected from among AETU Congress members.

The AETU Congress will be electing 36 members and alternate members to the Central Council. 21 will become members and the remaining 15 alternate members.

The AETU Central Workers Control Committee will have five members to be elected from the Congress. The congress will also name the chairman of the Control Committee.

Such a structure will, of course, contribute greatly towards the establishment of the working peoples' party and facilitate the activities of the workers control committees in their struggle against corruption, embezzlement and other social evils. It will also help boost the creative talent of workers, enhance the class struggle and strengthen the class alliance between peasants and workers.

One of the factors which makes the plant unions of great importance is that it is only at this level that workers can negotiate a collective agreement. The internal regulations of the various industrial unions has been left for formulation by AETU.

The eight Industrial Unions within AETU are: The Industrial Unions of the workers of Transport and Communications; Factories; Wholesale and Retail Trade; Water, Light and Gas; Service Institutions; Construction; Mines, Quarry and Mills and Agro-Industrial Workers Unions.

CSO: 4700/1168

PROGRESS IN POSTAL SERVICES NOTED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 p 6

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — The Ethiopian Postal Service has made a marked progress in activities in the post-revolutionary period, during which time the number of post offices around the country has gone up from 378 in 1973 to 800 at present.

This was stated by Comrade Gezahegn Gebre-Wolde, general manager of the Ethiopian Postal Service (EPS), in an interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* here yesterday. He said the postal service has shown a steady growth during the last several years. The trend is shown by the following figures, in 1974 the number of post offices went up to 502 while in 1975 it grew to 552. The breakdown of the figures reveals that in 1973 there were 84 main post offices, 211 sub-post offices and 83 visiting postman service. Today there are 95 post offices, 344 sub-post offices and 361 visiting postman services.

According to the EPS general manager, postal service was introduced in Ethiopia in 1894. Most of the post offices in the country located in Kaffa, Illubabor, Gojjam, Wollega and partly in Shoa administrative regions. Comrade Gezahegn pointed out that this was due to the favourable

road network existing in these regions. Second place is held by south-eastern regions that include Hararghe, Sidamo, Bale, Gamo Goffa and part of Shoa, and northern regions of Eritrea. Gondar, Tigray and Wollo take third place in distribution of post offices.

Comrade Gezahegn said that the establishment of mass organizations has considerably contributed to the development of the postal service. The numbering of houses in urban areas has also facilitated the entire mail service. The general manager said that in addition to the establishment of mass organizations, the launching of the nation-wide literacy campaign has had a positive impact in the growth of the country's postal system.

Commenting on future plans, Comrade Gezahegn said we have to do a lot more in order to meet the postal service needs of the nation. He said we have to see to it that people will be able to receive their mail from the nearest post office. He said on the basis of the standard set by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) one post office is to give service between 3,000 to 5,000 people. He stressed once again that the creation of mass organizations has helped the development of the Ethiopian Postal Service and ad-

ded that further results could be expected through the co-operation of mass organizations. The general manager said under an initiative provided by the EPS already 20 post offices are extending their services in 20 of the city's 25 higher associations. Construction of post offices is underway in the remaining higher urban dwellers' associations. The expenses for the construction of the post offices was borne by the higher associations.

The general manager said the programme is being introduced in urban centres in different parts of the city. Peasants' associations are encouraged to have similar services in the form of the visiting postman service. Comrade Gezahegn said peasants' service co-operatives are authorized to sell postage stamps and aero-gramme pieces in order to lessen the burden of the rural population, that usually have to walk long distances to get these services.

The Ethiopian Postal Service began showing marked progress in its activities from 1977 onwards and this was followed by the launching of the National Literacy Campaign. The EPS has over 1,500 employees, 850 of them representing permanent staff while around 700 of them account for postal agents, which figure also includes visiting postman.

REYA CC MEETING PASSES RESOLUTIONS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 5

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) — The Third Regular Meeting of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association (REYA) wound up here yesterday devising ways and means for the execution of the resolutions of the Third Regular Session of COPWE and passing resolution on different organizational issues.

The meeting, during its three-day session, listened to reports submitted by regional chapters from the 14 administrative regions, Assab administrative province and within the Revolutionary Army.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the resolution passed by the Second Regular Session of REYA Central Committee and made wide ranging deliberation on international affairs.

The meeting, noting the significant role it played in the formation of the National Workers Control Co-

mmittee (NWCC) also devised ways in which its members will play in the structuring of the workers control committee at all levels.

The meeting issued necessary directives to members to extend solidarity in practice in the move taken to strengthen the AEPA and AETU.

On the closing ceremony Comrade Hailu Tujuba, Chairman of the REYA handed over to Comrade Mulugeta Gebre, Chairman of the Eritrea REYA Chapter, the 100,000 Birr donation raised by the REYA chapters of the 13 administrative regions and REYA CC Head Quarters towards strengthening the Eritrea REYA Branch.

The meeting issued declaration that the youth of Revolutionary Ethiopia is poised to act as a rearguard and motive force in the successful implementation of the Red Star Multifaceted Revolutionary Campaign.

CSO: 4700/1168

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF NON-ENGLISH PRESS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 Apr 82 p 3

[Article by Woubetu Taye in column "Views, Comments, Opinions"]

[Text]

In an editorial comment on this week's election of executive committee members of plant unions, *Serto Ader*, organ of the CC of COPWE, said that the working class has organized itself in the various mass organizations to intensify its struggle. However, the struggle will be more enhanced through the leadership of a vanguard working class party.

Economic development is decisive for the improvement of the quality of life of the working class. This can only be achieved by a strengthened workers unions and peasant associations which will help boost production, the paper editorialized.

Serto Ader also elaborated on the role of the two mass organizations as being instrumental in the implementation of government policy, inculcate socialist discipline in the minds of their members besides helping workers assert their rights.

The web of bureaucratic entanglements will be minimized through increased workers participation in decision making. Proper use and care of machinery and other production materials will be feasible by the establishment of Workers Control Com-

mittees. The reorganization of AETU and AEPA, the editorial said, will strengthen the activities of people's control committees to be set up.

This being so, workers should give utmost care to the election of office bearers at the various levels. Those running for office should be persons with a good record of achievement in the revolutionary struggle, creative and those able to become a link between the Revolutionary Government, COPWE and workers, *Serto Ader* stated.

Workers were urged to think twice before casting their vote for the candidates since it will be reflecting on their performance after election. They must learn from past experience, when persons interested in their own welfare were elected to leadership positions in trade unions thus embezzling union funds and misrepresenting workers interests.

The COPWE CC organ concluded its editorial by saying that nothing is unknown to workers about the personality of the candidates. Each and every one of them knows the path every worker tread during this past seven revolutionary years. Of vital importance is

the utilization of this knowledge in the election of union leaders through the democratic forum granted to them. By this act of theirs they will greatly contribute to the forging ahead of the popular revolution.

Quality of Education

The Amharic daily, *Addis Zemen*, in its editorial Wednesday commended the efforts being made by the Revolutionary Government to improve the quality of education and enhance student discipline. The change in the timing of the start of the school year and the mandatory wearing of uniforms by schoolchildren had numerous advantages, the paper noted.

After noting that attempts in the past to have students wear uniforms were not successful, the paper called on school administration officials and parents to make the utmost effort for the implementation of the directive.

The wearing of uniforms by students will help to overcome the prevailing disciplinary problems among students. However, *Addis Zemen* cautioned, means should be found to enable parents with many children buy uniforms for their children without feeling the financial burden. One of the suggested means in the editorial is payment on instalment basis.

In a second page feature Tuesday, *Addis Zemen*, described the overall contributions of the youth. With the establishment of REYA, the youth has overcome the shortcoming imposed upon it by the lack of an organization. REYA is striving to increase youth participation in national economic development.

For the triumph of socialism, the success of the revolutionary development campaign and eradication of illiteracy, the young generation has made a remarkable contribution since the setting up of REYA, it was noted

in the feature.

REYA embraces 19,526 basic organizations with a membership of over three million youngsters out of the nine million eligible for membership. The organization is attempting to put all youngsters under its fold, the feature said.

REYA was featured in connection with the holding of its Third Regular Congress of the CC.

The Oromo language weekly *Berisa*, commented on the need of the caution workers must make in electing their union leaders. For elections to leadership positions in any organization, the political consciousness of the electors is essential, the paper stated.

The election of proper persons to various leadership positions in the mass organizations in the past were achieved through a hard and bitter struggle. Accordingly, now that elections are being held of union leaders, workers must scrutinize candidates, the paper editorialized.

It is only when workers well versed in Marxism-Leninism take up positions in the unions that problems connected with the daily lives of workers are tackled with properly. This not being achieved, workers will be unable to play the vanguard role in the revolutionary struggle, *Berisa* commented.

The Oromo language paper concluded its remarks by saying that cognizant of the fact that the role strengthened trade unions will play in the advancement of the revolution, workers must be able to use their rights properly.

Control Committees

Al-Alem, the Arabic weekly on its part commented on the importance of the People's Control Committees. The sacrifices made by both workers and peasants to reach the current stage was noted by the paper.

The strict screening of candidates

for the National People's Control Committee, which took a long time, was crowned with success. It has made it possible for people with creative ability and long years of experience and the ability to institutionalize a new system to become members of the higher committee, *Al-Alem* noted.

The struggle for socialist construction will advance forward under such situations. New Ethiopia will be built on sound foundations, the paper concluded.

Serto Ader, in a front-page article wrote that the resolutions adopted by the Third Regular Congress of the CC of REYA will contribute much towards the fulfilment of COPWE's mission. The youth were called upon to verse themselves in scientific socialism through their organization besides increasing the effort for the establishment of the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia.

After noting the contributions the youth have made in the on-going National Literacy Campaign, REYA called on the youth to increase its voluntary participation. It also disclosed its full support for the Multi-faceted Red Star Revolutionary Reconstruction and Development Campaign in addition to the issuance of a special declaration on the strengthening of its branch in Eritrea Region. *Serto Ader*, pointed out.

REYA CC THIRD REGULAR MEET IN PROGRESS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] ADDIS ABABA (ENA)--The Third Regular Meeting of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association (REYA) opened here yesterday at its Central Committee Office.

The three-day meeting will hear progress reports on the activities of REYA's 14 regional branches, the Assab provincial administration and the Addis Ababa as well as REYA Committee offices within the Revolutionary Army. The reports deal with youth participation in organisation, ideological dissemination and control activities.

The participants of the meeting will also be given educational briefings on different topics.

Opening the meeting, Comrade Hailu Tujuba, Chairman of REYA, said that Ethiopian youth are devoting their energy, intellectual resources and creative ability to the realisation of the objectives of the Revolution, he said.

The youth are also taking part in the task of socialist construction guided by a unified programme in accordance with the political organisational and ideological directives of the Revolutionary Government and COPWE.

Encouraging Results

Comrade Hailu outlined the encouraging results obtained by REYA in the field of organisation, ideological dissemination, participation in political and social fields in the military branch and in the building of the new proletarian culture.

The REYA Chairman informed the session of the progress underway in coordinating youth and enhancing their activities in various areas endeavour.

Comrade Hailu underscored the significance of the Third Regular Meeting of the REYA Central Committee which, he observed, coincided with the establishment of the national workers control committee, the launching of the Red Star Multi-Faceted Revolutionary Campaign in Eritrea region and the issuance of the decrees streamlining AETU and AEPA.

He also referred to REYA's strong international solidarity in the struggle against imperialism, racism, zionism and for world peace and economic and social justice.

Speaking about Ethiopian youth abroad, the REYA Chairman pointed out that through the full support and guidance of COPWE and in accordance with the decisions of the Second Regular Meeting of REYA Central Committee, Ethiopian students' associations affiliated to REYA have been set up in Europe, North America and Socialist Cuba.

He noted that REYA was made member of the International Democratic Youth Federation and Executive Committee member of the International Union of Students in recognition of the implacable anti-imperialist stand of Ethiopian youth. He also disclosed that REYA is to host in July an international meeting aimed at forging the anti-imperialist alliance.

The session listened to reports of REYA Committee offices from Shoa, and Arssi regions in the morning and Addis Ababa, Eritrea, Tigrai, Wollo, Gondar, Gojjam and Wollo regions in the afternoon panel.

The opening ceremony was attended by Comrade Wondimu Robi, COPWE Central Committee alternate member and Head of Youth Affairs in the COPWE Organizational Affairs Department, and Comrade Capt. Berena Wordofa, Head of Youth Affairs in the Political Affairs Department of the Revolutionary Army.

CSO: 4700/1168

WRITERS' BRANCH UNION SET UP IN ERITREA

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] ASMARA (ENA)--A regional branch of the Ethiopian Writers' Union was established here Saturday to promote artistic and creative works.

The organ was established by comrades engaged in writing, art and musical professions following a meeting held here. Comrade Girmai Gebre-Tsadik was elected chairman. Writers, artists and musicians elected their respective office.

Comrade Girma Wolde-Giorgis, Head of the Transport, Communications and Fuel Task Force in the Red Star Multi-Faceted Revolutionary Campaign and chairman of the provisional regional writers committee, opened the meeting.

Comrade Baalu Girma, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance, Comrade Dr. Lapiso Getahun, Head of Ethiopian Studies in the Ministry of Culture, Comrade Ayalneh Mulat, Head of Cultural Affairs in COPWE's Ideological Department, also addressed the meeting.

Comrade Baalu spoke on the rules of creative writing and noted that the Red Star Revolutionary Development Campaign has laid special emphasis on developing creativity and producing more artists in the region. He also noted the essential differences between the capitalist and socialist systems.

Comrade Lapiso spoke on approach the unity and the diversity of the nationalities in Ethiopia.

He pointed out that there are more than 100 nationalities speaking upwards of 174 languages.

Comrade Ayalneh spoke on socialist realism.

CSO: 4700/1168

CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES MERCHANT SHIP, INSPECTS MARINE TRANSPORT

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 Apr 82 pp 1, 4

[Text]

MASSAWA (ENA) — Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, yesterday inaugurated a modern merchant ship which was purchased by the Ethiopian Shipping Lines Corporation and observed the activities of the marine transport sector.

The new merchant ship named "Red Star" which was inaugurated by Comrade Chairman Mengistu was bought at a cost of 10,324,000 Birr to expand and strengthen the Ethiopian marine transport.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army, was shown around the various sections of the newly inaugurated "Red Star" by the captain of the ship, Comrade Captain Tekle Abraha, and also inspected

the facilities of Massawa Port.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, the Minister of Transport and Communications and COPWE Central Committee member, said that in line with the directives earlier given by Comrade Chairman Mengistu to improve the nation's merchant fleet and their services two ships were bought for 21 million Birr — the "Red Star" and "Walwal."

The Minister explained that the two merchant ships were produced with the most up to date technology and expressed confidence that the ships would provide dependable services in the years to come.

Explaining that the past feudo-bourgeois regime had no defined policy on marine transport Comrade

Yusuf further stated that following the transfer of the Maritime Transport Service to public ownership and the establishment of the Maritime Transport Authority, a steady profit had been realized.

The Minister of Transport and Communications said that based on the directive given by Comrade Chairman Mengistu, a 20-year development master plan is under preparation, and that efforts are being made to upgrade the ports and train adequate professionals in this area of endeavours. In this regard he revealed that the first batch of 10 Ethiopians have graduated as commercial ship captains and that 23 engineers and four communication technicians were undergoing training abroad.

Comrade Yusuf stated that preparations are underway to buy additional merchant ships in line with decisions taken to this end.

After the end of the inaugural ceremony of the "Red Star", Comrade Chairman Mengistu inspected the "Karamara" liner and studied the master plan prepared to upgrade the port of Massawa during which he received a briefing on the plan by Comrade Yusuf.

Later Comrade Chairman Mengistu toured the port and its environs.

In the course of the inspection tour, Comrade Chairman Mengistu exchanged views with elders present at the inauguration ceremony at which time the elders expressed their heartfelt affection to the Comrade Chairman.

When Comrade Chairman Mengistu arrived at Massawa airport, he was accorded warm welcome by Comrade Yusuf and representatives of government and mass organizations of the Key Bahr province.

At the "Red Star" or Key Kokeb ship bouquets of flowers were presented to Comrade Chairman Mengistu.

Present at the inaugural ceremony

were Comrade Amanuel Amde Mikael, Deputy Senior Minister, COPWE Central Committee member and Secretary General of the Red Star Multi-Faceted Revolutionary Campaign in Eritrea region, Ministers, COPWE Central Committee members and Executive Committee members of the Red Star Multi-Faceted Revolutionary Campaign.

Meanwhile Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, has congratulated the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are celebrating the Second Anniversary of their independence today.

In a message to H.E. Canaan S. Banana, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade Chairman Mengistu extended warmest congratulations of the government and people of Socialist Ethiopia and that of his own to the brotherly people of Zimbabwe on the occasion of their independence anniversary.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu also extended best wishes for the peace and prosperity of the brotherly people of the Republic of Zimbabwe and for the personal well-being of H.E. President Banana.

ACTIVITIES OF ANIMAL, ANIMAL BYPRODUCTS TEAM NOTED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 Apr 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] ADDIS ABABA (EH)--The Animal and Animal By-products Market Development Team, operating under the Animal Resources Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, is primarily engaged in the collection of data on livestock market throughout the country including the movement of trade animals.

In an interview with The Ethiopian Herald yesterday, Comrade Sintayehu Gebre-Mariam, head of the team, said such information would help identify potential areas on trade animals as well as the routes used for such purpose. He said the acquisition of such information will allow the team to establish the necessary facilities, namely, staging points or animal resting places. Staging points are to be set up with an average of 25-30 kilometres.

Discussing the matter further, Comrade Sintayehu said that by establishing staging points it is possible to maintain the weight of the animal and the quality of meat, since the animals are made to traverse long distances, during which time they could lose up to 30 per cent of their weight. He noted that this would in turn result in loss of income to the peasant because of the low quantity and quality of the final product.

According to the head of the team, as a rule the staging points will have a resting area, and watering and feed facilities for animals. The team plans to set up around 10 staging points on a 250-kilometre route. The staging points have already been identified and these will be located in Jibat-Metcha and Yerer-Kereyu provinces in Shoa region. Each staging point will be built over one hectare of land, which is estimated to cost about 15,000 Birr. The team's long-range plan is to establish 10 to 12 staging points annually until the whole will be covered by a network of routes linking consumer centres and meat packing plants with production areas.

Comrade Sintayehu said that there are also plans to establish check-points, mainly in border areas, where a substantial contraband business in cattle is going on. He said five of the planned 16 check-points are nearing completion and the remaining 11 are expected to be ready by the end of the next fiscal year. The check-points will serve a vital purpose in controlling the illegal movement of hides and skins into the capital city from rural areas. The check-points will be set up at ideal locations in Hararghe, Bale and Sidamo regions.

The other major activity carried out by the Animal and Animal By-products Market Development Team involves the improvement of hides and skins. The team sees to it that proper facilities, such as sheds, frames, salting tables, salting horse and stores are set up. The head of the team added that peasants' service co-operatives in Sidamo region have introduced the necessary facilities for the preparation of hides and skins. They are setting a good example to be followed by other co-operatives. The future trend is to encourage peasants' service co-operatives to take up this business on a large scale. The team is teaching the co-operatives the proper techniques on the handling of hides and skins.

According to information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, in the 1980-1981 period Ethiopia has exported 3,094 tons of hides valued at 9.2 million Birr and 504,633 dozen of skins valued at 40.3 million Birr. Other exports made during the same period include more than 2,000,000 square metres of semi-processed hides valued at 2.6 million Birr and 342,438 dozen of semi-processed skins valued at 42.5 million Birr. The total earnings from this sector of the export market accounted for 11.4 per cent of the total national earnings from export.

Improper Handling

Comrade Sintayehu stressed that a large quantity of hides and skins are wasted because they are used for domestic purposes or due to improper handling. He said that if all the hides and skins produced in the country are brought to the market, Ethiopia would be able to get increased foreign exchange earnings from this same source.

The team has submitted a project for approval to the government regarding the use of wasted animal byproducts in rural areas. These include blood, meat, offal and other non-edible by-products. The project will be a service-giving venture teaching producers on the proper utilization of animal by-products.

Comrade Sintayehu also discussed, the marketing situation at present, which he stated is not properly organized. He said there are too many markets with no centralized system in the country as well as too many middlemen, that are amassing huge profits. He said the other thing is that the right type of animals are not reaching the market except for worked-out oxen and barren cows. He said the price made by peasants is not inviting and besides there are seasonal fluctuations in the market and prices owing to the imbalance in supply and demand.

The team's long-range aims are to centralize the market as well as create a network for gathering and disseminating market information. This is designed to stop the exploitation carried out by traders over producers, as they are better informed about prices and they are virtually the ones that determine the price of the product. The plan will eventually lead to the selling of animals by grade. The team will encourage co-operatives to practice a ranching system and will promote the same by providing the necessary technical assistance and advice. In this respect the team will work in close co-operation with the veterinary division so that animals will receive, the necessary veterinary services.

ETHIO-BULGARIAN TRADE TIES REVIEWED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) — Ethiopian organizations dealing in export trade were briefed here Tuesday night on the strengthening of existing trade relations between Socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of Bulgaria in line with the mutual trade agreement reached between the two sisterly countries last year.

Held at the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce, the briefing was given by Comrade Nedialko I Metchev the Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in connection with the international Trade Fair to be held from May 3rd to 9th in the Bulgarian town of Plovdiv.

Comrade Metchev spoke on the ways of further increasing the amount

of trade exchange between the two countries and noted that a great stride had been made in this field following the upsurge of the Ethiopian revolution.

He also elaborated on the opportunities of implementing the trade and economic agreement which were signed last year in Sofia in accordance with the Session of the Joint Commission on Trade and Technical Cooperation of the two countries. The Counsellor explained the various development projects that could be run with the economic aid Bulgaria provides to Ethiopia.

Preparations have meanwhile been completed by Ethiopia to display a variety of commercial items at the forthcoming trade fair in Plovdiv.

CSO: 4700/1168

MINISTER RETURNS FROM JOINT COMMISSION MEET IN ADEN

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 5

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) — The joint commission which was recently established to implement the five year economic, scientific, technical and commercial cooperation signed by Socialist Ethiopia and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen has mapped out its action plans in accordance with the joint cooperation programme of action for this year following deliberations during its meeting in Aden last week.

This was stated by Comrade Wollie Chekol, Minister of Foreign Trade, on his return here after attending the meeting of the joint commission in the PDRY capital.

The joint commission, which over-

sees the implementation of the agreement by organizing annual programme of action, has agreed to strengthen and widen air and sea communications and install a telephone line between Assab and Aden, Comrade Wollie disclosed.

He said that the joint commission also approved this year's programme of action while at the same time recommending further strengthening of cooperation in the Tourist Industry and the promotion of educational, cultural, economic and trade relations between the two friendly countries.

The Minister observed that the two countries have waged tremendous efforts to strengthen the economic and trade relations existing between them.

CSC: 4700/1168

'YEKATIT' HIGHLIGHTS STATE OF FOREIGN TRADE

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 5

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) — The encouraging and satisfactory trend of Ethiopia's foreign trade situation has been highlighted in the latest issue of the Amharic Magazine *Yekatit*.

The magazine also features on the decisive role banks play to improve the country's foreign trade performance.

An interview with Comrade Wollie Chekol, Minister of Foreign Trade, published in the magazine contrasts the dynamic change that had come about in the foreign trade sector following the Revolution with the static and exploitative situation prevailing in the pre-revolutionary era.

Pointing out the characteristics of foreign trade in the pre-revolutionary period, it is pointed out that export permits were given to individuals who advanced the exploitative mechanism of the feudo-bourgeois system. These exporters limited their activities to few agricultural products and focused mostly on western markets.

As far as imports were concerned, importers during the feudo-bourgeois system were interested mainly in importing consumer goods thereby encouraging the uneconomic outflow of foreign exchange, it was explained by Comrade Wollie in the interview with *Yekatit*.

Following the upsurge of the Revolution, in view of the importance foreign trade has in the construction of a socialist economy, the Revolutionary Government established a separate Ministry to look after the foreign trade sector.

Comrade Wollie informs *Yekatit* that the share of the government in the export trade has risen from zero per cent prior to the revolution up to 70 per cent in the previous fiscal year. Similarly, the government's share in imports has risen from 20 per cent prior to the Revolution to 34 per cent at present.

A comparison of import values two years before the Revolution and nine years later show an increment of 205 per cent, according to Comrade Wollie, while in the same period, export value registered an increment of 160 per cent.

It is stated in the magazine that 80 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings of the country is obtained from the export of coffee, hides and skins, oil seeds and pulses, vegetables and fruits, meat and meat products and other products.

In conclusion, *Yekatit* stresses the

responsibility entrusted upon individuals and organisations engaged in the foreign trade to develop this important sector, and assures them of the readiness of the National Bank and the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia to render them utmost co-operation to facilitate their work.

CSO: 4700/1168

BRIEFS

EEC 57 MILLION BIRR GRANT--ADDIS ABABA (ENA)--The commission of the European Communities has approved a grant of 57,000,000 Birr to Ethiopia towards the implementation of phase two of the coffee improvement programme, in accordance with the cooperation provision of Lome Two. According to a press release issued here by the Commission's delegation to Socialist Ethiopia, the grant, second of its kind, is to expand into new areas coffee-oriented activities underway in Kaffa, Illubabor, Wollega and Hararghe regions and continue the operations already in progress. The number of peasant families expected to be involved in the project is estimated at 120,000. The press release noted that a similar grant of 27,000,000 Birr was earlier made towards Ethiopia's coffee improvement programme under phase one in which 50,000 families were involved. The current project aims at planting Coffee Berry Disease Resistant varieties, rejuvenation of existing plantations, chemical spraying, provision of farm inputs, extension services, support for cooperatives, research activities and construction of feeder roads. The overall objective of the project, approved by the Commission in accordance with Lome One and Lome Two, is to help improve the productivity of coffee growing sectors in Ethiopia, aiming at an increase of 12,000 metric tons of refined coffee. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 15 Apr 82 pp 1, 5]

MINISTRY, SIDE AID AGREEMENT--ADDIS ABABA (ENA)--The Ministry of Health yesterday signed a 2.5 million aid agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to strengthen its rural health services in the regions. The money will be channelled towards the construction of a health training institution in Jimma and for the expansion of mother and child health care programme, the building of a health office in Hararghe region and the strengthening of the Training Department of the Ministry of Health. The agreement covers the period between 1982 and 1983 and was signed on behalf of Socialist Ethiopia. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 p 1]

PEASANTS' VILLAGE IN GAMBELLA--A 140-hectare plot of land has been demarcated for a peasants' village in Gambella, Illubabor region, where 407 family heads have been settled, according to ENA report. It is understood that 407 families with 1,500 dependents were settled during 1980/81 in the village from among the Agnwak, Nuwer, Mejenger and Kumo nationalities. Construction work on residential quarters for prospective settlers is also in progress, it was disclosed. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has constructed in the

village a warehouse, a clinic, a garage, a radio telecommunication facility, a flour mill and a residential quarter for staff who will be engaged in the settlement project. It was learnt that 140 of the settlers were declared literates while the remaining are attending follow-up classes. Comrade Simon Galore, COPWE Central Committee member and COPWE representative for Illubabor region, made an inspection tour of the village and was apprised on peasant association activities. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 p 3]

1,232 TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL GRADS--ADDIS ABABA (EH)--1,232 students from four reorganized technical and vocational schools are expected to graduate at the end of this academic year, according to Comrade Sileshi Mulatu, chief expert of Technical and Vocational Education. Two of the four schools are located here in the capital while the rest two are found in Dessie and Illubabor, the expert disclosed. The students are trained on wood, metal, and electrical works, it was learnt. During the two years training programme, they also study commerce and home economics. Meanwhile, 406 additional technicians are expected to graduate from the old Addis Ababa and Asmara technical schools, explained Comrade Sileshi. On the other hand, maximum effort is being exerted university-graduate to the students university-graduate teachers, the expert added. According to Comrade Sileshi, six technical and vocational schools will be opened in the next academic year. And that will raise the number of technical and vocational schools in the nation to 19, it was stated. In order to consolidate the training programme, the schools are at present obtaining assistance on agricultural and industrial field of studies from socialist countries, he concluded. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 p 6]

NEW FACILITIES IN SIRRE--A pipeline, several offices and a library were inaugurated over the weekend in Sirre district, Arssi region, by Comrade Sileshi Mengesha, COPWE Central Committee member and the Regional COPWE Representative, according to ENA report. The pipeline bringing drinking water for inhabitants of Felege-Berhan town from a distance of three kilometres was realised jointly by the town's inhabitants and the water and sewerage authority. The offices intended for governmental departments and mass organisations were constructed by the inhabitants of the district at a cost of 126,960 Birr. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Comrade Sileshi praised the self-help endeavours of the inhabitants of the district and noted the contributions made by representatives of government departments and mass organisations in agitating and organising the people. Earlier, Comrade Kifle Tekeste, the district administrator, also made a statement underlining the vital importance of the new facilities created on self-help basis. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 13 Apr 82 p 3]

CSO: 4700/1168

GABON

BONGO INTERVIEWED ON COOPERATION WITH CANADA

AB270935 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The president of the republic, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, this morning granted two audiences at the renovation palace. The first audience was granted to the adviser to King Hassan II, Mr Ahmed Reda Dedira. On this occasion, the emissary from Rabat delivered a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to the father of the renovation. The message was on relations existing between Gabon and Morocco. The two statesmen also reviewed international issues.

After these audiences in the morning, the head of state granted an important interview to a Canadian journalist, Mrs Ginger DuBois. With our correspondent, El Hadj Omar Bongo spoke about art and particularly about the movie "Tomorrow Is a New Day." On international politics, President Bongo stressed the (?excellent) relations existing between Gabon and Canada.

[Begin Bongo recording] We have signed agreements on railroad [words indistinct]. Concerning the trans-Gabon railroad, we started with the first phase from Libreville to Buey. The second phase will begin from Buey and end at Franceville [words indistinct]. After the completion of this phase, a third phase, will also start from Buey and will end at the (Belinga) road junction and if we have the means we can exploit some iron deposits. But, the economic policy we have with Canada concerns first and foremost training, which we appreciate so much, because here we have a higher college of education charged with training college and government secondary school teachers. Canada's participation here is an aspect of our cooperation with Canada. The Canadian Government assisted us in building this college of education. There are also several young cadres who have been trained in Canada in the fields of art and science. Concerning the railroads, it is evident that during the construction of the second phase, which will begin next year or by the end of this year maybe, Canada has once again demonstrated understanding by agreeing to participate in the construction of this second phase of the trans-Gabon railroad. Also Canada is assisting us in the construction of some buildings, such as the new office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. [End recording]

CSO: 4719/868

PRESIDENT'S NEW SOCIAL MEASURES ANALYZED

Dakar AFRICA in French No 139, Mar 82 pp 39, 40

[Article by Jean-Pierre Challard: "New Social Measures of President Omar Bongo"]

[Text] The Gabonese economy continues to feel the aftereffects of the shock of 1978-79, caused by the stabilization and recovery plan which was applied rigorously for 2 years and which was aimed at bringing under control an intolerable "overheating" of the economy. Analyzing and bringing under control the major financial and monetary imbalances, thanks particularly to the assistance of experts from the International Monetary Fund, certainly resulted in a more rational and more farseeing economic policy, avoiding as much as possible mere improvisations and the implementation of prestige projects.

Serious Social Problems

However, this kind of surgery, at the level of the major components of the economy, nonetheless neglected (or postponed) the treatment of important facets of the economy such as the disparities in income between different social and professional segments of the people. In the face of ostentatious and shocking expenditure by certain newly prosperous elements and the decline of the purchasing power of other citizens no longer able to meet the consecutive price increases, the Gabonese authorities recently undertook some essential readjustments. The normal play of the forces of supply and demand was unable to function in view of the "dictate" imposed by retail merchants, who manipulated weaknesses in the internal distribution networks.

Although the claims of the clandestine National Recovery Movement (MORENA) turned out to be inaccurate, and although the temporary closure of Omar Bongo National University had a rather personal character (the refusal of Rector Laurent Biffot), on the other hand the consequences within the labor sector at the end of December 1981 were based on more serious and more realistic reasons.

Only a few days later the government launched a frontal attack on this serious social problem, which had acquired regional proportions. The cabinet communique of 15 January 1982 ordered the increase of the minimum interprofessional guaranteed salary (SMIG), which went up from 30,000 to 35,000 CFA Francs. At the same time the tax-free indemnity for Gabonese workers alone went up one step, from 10,000 to 15,000 CFA Francs.

Thus, every worker of Gabonese nationality was assured of receiving at least 50,000 instead of 40,000 CFA Francs, or an increase of 25 percent, which was to raise Gabon to the highest ranks among the African countries in this respect. The SMIG, which had not changed for 3 years, had encountered all kinds of difficulty in following the successive increases in the prices of food products.

The inflation rate, which had stabilized at 8 percent in 1979, had shot up beginning in September, 1980, reaching the dangerous rate of 15.1 percent between 30 November 1980 and 30 November 1981. Although the index of 125 retail articles had risen at a rate of 15.1 percent, on the other hand the index of 113 wholesale articles had only risen by 8.0 percent. This proves that the control of the retail distribution networks is not very efficient, if not that these differences can be attributed to the disorganization of the retail market.

In the Libreville markets a stick of cooked manioc shrank in volume while becoming increasingly expensive. The plantain, which is the other basic food element in the Gabonese diet, was sold for up to 100 CFA Francs a "finger" at the retail level, which told President Omar Bongo that, to his great astonishment, the Gabonese monetary unit seemed to have become a 100 CFA Franc coin!

The day after the announcement of the increase in the SMIG, which therefore had not yet had any effect on salary slips, some unscrupulous merchants joyfully raised their package of 10 stocks of cooked manioc to 1,500 CFA Francs, which was equivalent to an increase of 50 percent. A few avenging "raids" but the Directorate of Price Control led them to calmer thinking. The merchandise was sold on the spot at the established price or, when the offense was repeated, was seized and distributed free of charge at the general hospital.

Legal Strike

Starting the following week, negotiations on salaries at the national level were to begin in the joint committees, following the increase in the SMIG. All social and professional classes participated through the trade union representatives, the representatives of management, and the leaders of the Ministry of Labor and Employment. The discussions led to readjustments which were to take effect from 1 January 1982, to be applied in mid-February, following approval by the national committee and remain in effect for the month of January.

Once these salary negotiations ended, the different parties opened discussions on the basic structure of the collective bargaining agreements. On Saturday, 6 February 1982, this basic structure was officially signed in the presence of Minister of State Jules Bourdes Ogoulguende.

Speaking to the Confederation of Gabonese Employers, represented by Sipamio-Berre, and the Gabonese Trade Union Confederation, led by Martin Allini, the minister recalled that contrary to what is generally believed, the exercise of the right to strike in Gabon was not prohibited. Articles 238 and 249 of Law 5 of 1978 regulate the procedure for collective labor disputes in this way: if all attempts at conciliation and arbitration set forth in the law are unsuccessful, the strike becomes legal.

On the day before [5 February 1982] another cabinet meeting had decided on an equally important measure of a social and professional character, in terms of its impact on the people. The monthly transportation premium payable to all workers went up to 5,000 CFA Francs for four trips per day and 2,500 CFA Francs for two trips per day. These premium payments had previously been fixed at 2,600 and 1,300 CFA Francs, respectively.

This new measure only completed the action taken in the preceding cabinet meeting, where it was clearly stated that, "The government intends to provide, as soon as possible and in accordance with the realities of the national economy, appropriate solutions for the existing problems in the labor sector."

During the course of the former cabinet meeting, presided over by Omar Bongo, the authorities equally stated that they wished to carry out a census of the unemployed and to find work for the idle or the unemployed (the word "unemployment" was, however, carefully avoided), while issuing a warning to all those who enjoyed idleness and refused to take a paying job to provide for their own support.

At the same meeting the authorities established a committee of experts in the field of education to study and resolve the principal problems in this sector: cancellation of contracts, recruitment, reclassification, accreditation, retirement, vacations, housing, promotions, competitive examinations. This is because since the increase in their salaries in 1980, following serious disturbances in May of that year, teachers have continued to complain that their claims are not seriously considered and that promotions depend on influence or pure chance (or pure luck).

Right to Own Homes

However, it would be incorrect to state that the Gabonese Government is taking one rapid step after another only in dealing with situations involving labor conflicts. An analysis of the national budget for 1982 shows that the accent is placed on economic and above all social affairs. Education, to speak of this sector, will benefit from the expenditure of about 13.160 billion CFA Francs, compared to 10.3 billion CFA Francs in 1981.

Housing (Ministry of Land, Registration, Preservation of Public Domain, Housing, Urbanism, and Surveys) will have 7.080 billion CFA Francs allocated to it, compared with 4.750 billion CFA Francs in 1981, and the cabinet meeting of 15 January 1982 took action more specifically on the possibility for Gabonese to own their own homes.

For an income ranging between 40,000 (now 50,000) and 80,000 CFA Francs each Gabonese can claim maximum state aid of 2.5 million CFA for construction of housing, which he undertakes himself, under very favorable conditions. In the case of income ranging between 80,000 and 150,000 CFA Francs, these people can acquire modest homes built by the National Real Estate Company under a rent-purchase arrangement prepared to meet their financial means. Finally, for those in the already comfortable income group of 150,000 to 600,000 CFA Francs per month, CREFOGA [Gabonese Real Estate Credit Company], which has 2.0 billion CFA Francs in resources, will grant loans at reasonable rates to facilitate the construction of housing for citizens of the country.

Public health, which is not the stepchild of the ministries, will have 4.894 billion CFA Francs allocated to it in 1982, compared to 3.450 billion CFA Francs in 1981. In this sector, and the figures prove it, Gabon is in first place among the countries of Central Africa in terms of hospital equipment, the number of doctors, and the number of hospital beds per person.

Certainly, these increased allocations for the "social" ministries have their reverse side of the coin. The operating budget will see rigorous austerity controls applied in the sector concerning the expenditures of high-ranking officials with the aim of reducing certain privileges and certain positions.

No rental lease can exceed 500,000 CFA Francs per month, and any prior contract going beyond this limit will be purely and simply cancelled. Utility charges such as telephone, water, and electricity, which the high-ranking personalities benefit from, will be cancelled as of 1 January 1982; that is, they will be charged to those who benefit from them. Finally, office expenses will be reviewed by the Ministry of Finance, with the purpose of reducing them.

Medical and Social Action

Finally, in Gabon there is a social security system which stands above this whole series of specific measures (some would say circumstantial measures). This proves that this action by the government relates to a long-term, in-depth effort, rather than ad hoc adaptations.

This institution, which was born 4 years before independence under the name of "Fund for Compensation and Family Allowances," has come a long way since then. On 25 November 1975 it came into existence in its present form, under the name of "National Fund for Social Security," at the same time that Law No 6 of 1975 created the Social Security Code.

The unique aspect of the Gabonese social security formula is the integration of a hospital infrastructure into its direct allowances, instead of a simple form of reimbursement. These establishments include the Owendo Pediatric Hospital, in the suburbs of Libreville; the Jeanne Ebori Foundation, in the city of Libreville; and the Port-Gentil Hospital Center.

Family allowances increase regularly: they are 3,000 CFA Francs per month per child. Prenatal allowances amount to 13,500 CFA Francs in two payments, not including the layettes, which are a premium on birth and amount to no less than 35,000 CFA Francs per child. The daily indemnities in case of pregnancy are 100 percent of total salary for a period of 14 weeks. Elsewhere, in accordance with the pro-birth [nataliste] policy of the government, family allowances have been extended to natural children, born out of wedlock.

The most discreet concession, since none of the media has spoken of it and no student has come forward to express his satisfaction, concerns the adjustment of the student scholarships in effect as of 1 January 1982. According to the figures provided by the new rector of the National University, Moise Oliveira, this scholarship has been raised to 60,000 CFA Francs per month for students holding a baccalaureat certificate who are registered at a faculty of the university.

Students not holding a baccalaureat certificate and registered in associated schools will only receive 55,000 CFA Francs. The prices of meal tickets have been raised to 150 CFA Francs and 60 CFA Francs for breakfast. A student pays 10,000 CFA Francs per month if he has a roommate and 12,000 CFA Francs if he lives by himself. A married couple pays 12,000 CFA Francs for a month, but if the wife also has a scholarship, the rate is two times 10,000 CFA Francs or 20,000 CFA Francs.

The program of social measures adopted by the government of Leon Mebiame and the existing social security provisions are evidence of the desire of the Gabonese authorities to provide a minimum of well-being for the population. These necessary readjustments prove that, in spite of everything, there are striking inequalities in the distribution of national wealth.

It is only to be desired that this process will continue so that each Gabonese will be able to say to himself that, basically, prosperity benefits everyone and not only a handful of privileged people. In any case, this is the watchword of the leader of the country.

5170

CSO: 4719/783

GHANA

STRENGTHENING OF PDC'S AGAINST ATTACKS DEMANDED

AB281725 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Yaw Graham commentary]

[Text] It is taken for granted that counterrevolutionaries opposed to the aims of the Democratic 31 December Revolution will stop at nothing to abort the revolution. Those who are profiting from the decay and degeneration of our national lives will not fold their arms and see their social power destroyed. As the revolutionary process intensifies, it will be surprising if reaction and enemies of the revolution do not get more desperate and therefore more vicious.

The question which arises is: What must a revolution do to strengthen and defend itself against the uncompromising attacks of counterrevolution, particularly attacks on the most important democratic gain, that is the People's Defense Committees [PDC]? The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and the Interim National Coordinating Committee [INCC] have asserted time and again that the PDCS are conceived to develop into revolutionary organs of popular power. The PDCS therefore are the ultimate mass base of the revolution. Any attack on them must therefore be seen as a direct challenge to the revolution. Success in destroying the PDCS will ensure the victory of reaction and the counterrevolution. Given this fundamentally subversive character of any attempt to destroy the PDCS, the revolution must be firm, ruthless and decisive in its manner of confronting these counterrevolutionary challenges. The history of all revolutions shows that counterrevolution gets bold when it is not confronted and dealt with decisively. From brutalizing PCS members, reaction can easily move on to kidnapping people, as the Volta region story shows. The revolution must draw a line and defend itself or be destroyed. If those challenging the mass basis of the revolution are not dealt with, not only will they feel bolder but this will also cause a speed disillusionment among the masses.

Physical attacks of any kind on PCD members must be seen as political crimes deserving special punishment. The PNDC must consider as a matter of urgency, including a scale of punishment for categories of attacks on PDC members. Publicity must be generated around such cases to strengthen the young and as yet not fully confident PDCS.

Direct physical attacks are not the only way in which attempts are being made to obstruct the development of the PDCS. A more profound obstacle is posed by the continuing existence of substantial and powerful portions of the old neocolonial state with its laws, institutions and culture. Reports indicate two disturbing trends which show clearly that the old and neocolonial state cannot be utilized to advance the revolution. PDC members have been called before magistrates and charged under the old laws for trying to protect the national interest: villagers trying to enforce the curfew in areas where there are no police so as to prevent theft, trying to organize a way of (?policing) the new rent control laws and many others.

Despite massive and popular support for the important political character of the PDCS in the face of legality, the judiciary will be true to its culture and ideology, thereby undermining the revolution. There can be no way round establishing a clear legal framework for the PDCS and repealing the old laws which obstruct them. The other disturbing trend is the role of some soldiers and policemen in the harassment of PDC members. This is a clear indication that the old culture of the military and police in which soldiers and policemen are used to repress citizens with whom they have more in common than those who instigate them into action is still very much alive in pockets of the military and police. Education will do a lot to bring these soldiers and policemen round to a proper appreciation of the PDCS and the revolution.

The People's Defense Committees as the instruments of popular power to be wielded in the community and the work places to smash the power structure and relations of the old and neocolonial society will be the object of rabid counterrevolutionary attention. The revolution must ruthlessly confront these serious threats on pain of destruction. The PNDC and the INCC must act speedily, decisively and ruthlessly to help the PDCS to strengthen and protect themselves against this open challenge in the counterrevolution.

CSG: 4700/1165

CUBAN REVOLUTION, PEOPLE HIGHLY PRAISED

AB211732 Accra Domestic Service in English 1410 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Station commentary on the program "Let the People Know": "The Cuban Revolution and the Example It Holds for Other Progressive Countries"]

[Excerpts] From October 1960, credible information began to appear in the Latin American and U.S. press about preparations for a planned invasion of Cuba.

The people of Cuba have, since the 1st of January 1959, kept a close guard over their revolution day and night. Their committees for the defense of the revolution, which are similar bodies to the People's Defense Committees we are trying to develop in Ghana, are true capable watchdogs of their revolution. About 80 percent of all Cubans of the age of 14 and above belong to defense committees which are organized on a block to block basis in both living communities and work places. The members are given military training to enable them to be a part of the people's militia. Such is the level of organization of the Cubans to defend their homeland that close to 1 million armed people could be mobilized within 24 hours in the event of any armed invasion of the island. What has the revolution brought to Cubans since January 1959 so that they are so ready to fight and die for their homeland? Let us consider a few facts and figures recorded:

1--Illiteracy has been almost completely wiped out of Cuba. The literacy campaign conducted on writing skills [words indistinct] to over 700,000 persons within a year.

2--Education, which is now completely free at all levels, has been greatly expanded. In 1958, there were just 811,345 Cubans in school. Today, there are over 3 and 1/2 million. In addition, there have been reforms to make education relevant to national needs. For instance, there is a combination of work and study to ensure the cultivation of citizens who are productive and practical. All high school students work for 4 months in the year in the country. Besides, all university graduates do a 2-year service in the countryside.

3--In the health sector, Cuba has one doctor for every 600 persons. This compares with one doctor for 17,000 persons in the least developed countries. Medical services are completely free. Such diseases like malaria, diphtheria and poliomyelitis have been eradicated while others like tetanus and tuberculosis have been considerably reduced. Mortality rates for mothers and children have come down. So efficient is the Cuban medical system that it is held as an example by the World Health Organization for developing countries.

4--Cuba has carried out the most complete land reform in the whole of Latin America. The land has been given to the tillers of the soil and this measure has paid off by considerable increase in sugar, tobacco and other agricultural produce.

Perhaps, the most significant achievement is that the Cubans themselves control their national life and destiny. Their economic resources are not used for the benefit of other people. The standards of living are very high. Social problems like alcoholism, vagrancy, prostitution, gambling and racial discrimination have been reduced to the barest minimum.

In national politics, Cubans have given democracy a new and radical content with broad participation by all the people at all levels. It is one of the few countries in the whole world where people call their president by his first name and engage in dialogue with him in public. Of course, Cuba is not yet a paradise. The country still have some serious social problems. But the progress being made to solve these problems gives an indication of increasingly improving social conditions.

The achievements of the Cuban revolution were not easy to attain. The people ran into difficulties stemming out of the magnitude of problems, the enemy they confronted as well as their overenthusiasm which led to the setting of extremely high targets some of the time. Then, there are the problems created by the United States which worsen from year to year. The economic blockade of Cuba continues to this day. Added to this blockade, Cuba is compelled to import vital needs from Europe and Asia which are over 10,000 miles away instead of the United States which is only 90 miles away. Next, there are attacks, threats and propaganda war being waged against Cuba by the United States. Over the 2-year period from 1980-81, the CIA launched a silent biological warfare on Cuba. Not less than four diseases affecting crops, livestock and human being were introduced into Cuba. Just consider the damage caused: African swine fever led to the destruction of almost half a million pigs in one province alone. A cattle disease and a sugarcane eczema led to a reduction of sugarcane production by 1.5 million tons in the 1980-81 harvest. A third disease, the Dengue fever, hit some 300,000 people in Cuba and caused the death of about 156.

Last year--on 23 September to be precise--Richard Allen, President Reagan's national security adviser, and Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state, announced the decision to begin radio broadcasts against Cuba. The Americans call the station Radio Marti thus profaning the name of Jose Marti, the famous Cuban nationalist who saw his whole life duty as preventing the United States from overpowering what he called "our land of America." Marti once said of the United States and I quote: "I have lived in the monster and I

know its entrails." unquote. This year, the Reagan administration has stepped up its campaign of lies and slander against Cuba and has threatened direct invasion. As many as eight military maneuvers in the Caribbean region have been planned for the U.S. Army, some of which have already started. The United States continues to occupy part of Cuban territory, Guantanamo Bay (?against the) wishes of the Cuban people. Indeed, as Fidel Castro said as far back as 1961, "There are some people with a mentality that does not permit them to sleep when they know that there is a revolution nearby."

What lessons can we learn from the Cuban experience as we commemorate the victory of the Bay of Pigs is the fact that a politically aware, determined and armed people cannot be defeated no matter how powerful the enemy. One of the most remarkable things about the Cuban revolution is its mobilizing ability--its ability to organize and unite the masses of the people in the face of a common enemy. Cuba, with a population of under 10 million, is perhaps one of the few developing countries where you can get hundreds of thousands of people in the street and, when necessary, in arms within a matter of hours to demonstrate support and unity for a good cause. The Cuban experience also makes it clear that a revolution is a difficult and risky business. It involves fundamental changes in society which will be opposed by existing strong and influential interests. By making a genuine revolution is the only way of ridding our country and people of poverty, disease, backwardness and foreign domination. And a genuine revolution cannot be made without the popular power and support of the masses.

CSO: 4700/1165

JUNE 4 MOVEMENT URGES AMBASSADOR'S RECALL

London WEST AFRICA in English 26 Apr 82 p 1171

[Text]

The June 4 Movement has urged the Provisional National Defence Council to recall the acting Ambassador in Moscow, Mr. Van-Dyke, for what it described as "anti-revolutionary" activities. It said during the recent congress of Soviet Trade Unions, the Ghana Embassy in Moscow organised a meeting with the Ghanaian delegation at the conference. At this meeting, Mr. Van-Dyke was alleged to have used "all kinds of tactics in trying to convince the trade union delegation that the PNDC's decision to set up people's defence committees was in direct violation of the role of the Ghana TUC".

The June 4 statement said Mr. Van-Dyke used the above reason to urge the delegation that it must lead a faction of the TUC in opposing the formation of PDCs in Ghana. The statement added that reactionary officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other state organisations had suffered a serious defeat as a result of the December 31 action, but that did not mean they had simply agreed to retreat and were forever abandoning their intentions to fight the revolution.

"We believe that the suffering people of Ghana have won power. The revolutionary process in the country now means that only Ghanaians who are prepared to devote their energy and give their life to defend the gains of the revolutionary process, for a just society are eligible for appointment as ambassadors and high commissioners," the statement said.

BRIEFS

PAPER CAUTIONS OVERENTHUSIASTIC PDC'S--The PIONEER is not happy about the agitation of some PDC's [People's Defense Committees] to dismiss in bloc the top executives of management. The paper points out that every employee--be he in the top managerial grade or not--was employed under certain conditions of service which create legal relations between the employee and his employer. These demands for instant termination of appointments or suspension of the people amount to victimization, the very sin the junior staff, who now form the PDC's, have been fighting against since the revolution. The PIONEER therefore maintains that victimization in whatever form is unjustified. The paper says the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] itself has respect for legality; it is wrong for the PDC's to abuse legality. It cautions moderation and restraint on the part of the overenthusiastic PDC's who are agitating daily for the mass dismissal of top management staff in their organizations. The PIONEER says the PDC's can expose the bad nobs among top management staff but their action must stop at the exposure. From there the law must be allowed to take its course. [Excerpt] [AB231930 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Apr 82]

INDIAN BITUMEN DONATION--The outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Ghana, Mr Nazareth, today paid a farewell call on the secretary for greater Accra, Mr Atukwei Okao. The envoy repeated that an Indian gift of 250 tons of bitumen for the Accra city council will arrive in the country. The bitumen will be carried by the same ship which will bring some of the newly ordered 200 Tata buses. [AB050628 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 4 May 82]

PRIVATE FIRMS WARNED--Private companies whose activities do not fall in line with the aims and objectives of the revolution could be confiscated to the state. A member of the PNDC, Sgt. Alolga Akata-Pore, gave this warning in Accra when he inaugurated the workers' defence committee of the Mechanical Lloyd Ltd. in Accra. He explained that the companies were established on Ghanaian soil and were using Ghanaian labourers, land and foreign exchange to work with. Their owners were just holding them in trust. Sgt. Akata-Pore appealed to the companies to invest their profits in other productive ventures which could benefit the people. He also appealed to the people to join in the crusade to restructure the society to ensure a better future for their children. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 26 Apr 82 p 1169]

FREEMASONS PLEDGE SUPPORT--The Reverend Kwabena Damuah, member of the PNDC, has urged lodges to educate the public on their activities so as to allay the fears and suspicions of non-members. The Rev. Damuah said he was impressed with the record of charitable services rendered to the community by freemasons, and gave the assurance that the PNDC would not interfere with the people's freedom of association. A delegation of heads of freemasonry in Ghana were calling on the Rev. Damuah at the Castle. It was led by Dr. E. A. Sackey, "district Grandmaster of the English Constitution". The delegation expressed concern about press allegations about the use of certain objects by the lodges. The delegations explained that the objects were symbols used to illustrate the "immortality" of man, reported the Ghanaian Times. The delegation also denied any truth in the allegation that members of the 33rd Degree of Masons were buried without their heads. It said there were no 33rd Degree Masons in Ghana. Freemasons in the delegation pledged their support for the PNDC administration and promised to get involved in the realisation of the aims of the revolution. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 26 Apr 82 p 1169]

CSO: 4700/1166

BERENGER CORPORATION IN SEYCHELLES TO CLOSE DEAL

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 23 Feb 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] After having refused frozen white fish from the Seychelles, the government authorizes the importation of fish from South Africa. A Mauritian technical mission will arrive Sunday in Seychelles to undertake discussions with the Seychelles Electricity Corporation, responsible for the installation of color television among our Seychelles neighbors. It will be a mission of the Mauritian company, Blytronics, which manufactures color television sets.

As we have already reported, Seychelles intends to place a large order for television sets (1,000) with a Mauritian firm sometime between now and the beginning of 1983. It is Intracorp, the company whose president is Mr Paul Berenger, that opened up the Seychelles market to Blytronics.

From another quarter, in a statement made to LE MAURICIEN, Mr Berenger finds "shocking" the fact that after having refused the sale and distribution of 13.7 tons of Seychelles frozen fish (captain and other white fish, but no "bourgeois," he notes), the Mauritian Government authorized the importation of 14.3 tons of frozen fish from South Africa. This fish, Mr Berenger went on to specify, with documents to back him up, arrived in Mauritius on the ship, "Nahoon," on 4 February.

"I intend to bring up the question with the Prime Minister," declared Mr Berenger, who reminded us that in refusing the request of Intracorp for the sale and distribution of Seychelles fish, the Ministry of Fishing had maintained that this fish was "bourgeois" (which wasn't correct), and then that the market was saturated and that it was necessary also to protect "the fishermen's interests." It is "clear," according to Mr Berenger, that the Mauritian Government doesn't want to encourage regional cooperation.

The First Voyage of the "5 Juin": Final Balance Sheet

The following tables demonstrating the profitability of interisland commerce for Mauritian industry and commerce were furnished us by Mr Berenger to support the argument according to which "the government is completely wrong to refuse to play the game of regional cooperation."

1ST TRIP "5 JUIN"

1. VALUE OF ORDERS NEGOTIATED THROUGH INTRACORP

1.1 Value of goods from Seychelles to Mauritius (C&F)	456,650
1.2 Value of goods from Mauritius to Seychelles (C&F)	1,259,220

TOTAL Rupees	1,715,870

2. DETAILS ON FREIGHT, MAURITIUS TO SEYCHELLES

2.1 Total freight Mauritius to Seychelles	292.64 M3
2.2 Total freight negotiated through Intracorp	254.36 M3
OR	87%

"5 JUIN"

1. Total freight embarked	292.64 M3
2. Total freight embarked through Intracorp.	254.36 M3
(percentage of freight through Intracorp)	87%
3. Total freight payable . . .Rupees	205.725.
4. Total orders of Intracorp embarked on "5 JUIN".	Rupees 1,259.220.

<u>SHIPPERS</u>	<u>CONSIGNEES</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>KGS</u>	<u>VALUE (IN RUPEES)</u>
D.G. Rubber Ltd.	Wel Supplies	Gloves	125)	
Gumboots Man. Ltd.	Wel Supplies	Rubber Boots	760)	30,300.
Mauritius Oil Refineries	Seycom	Edible Oil	22,310	220,000.
Marketing Board	Seycom	Onions	5,000	20,000.
Marketing Board	Seycom	Potatoes	50,000	170,000.
Silmic	Wel Supplies	Furniture Knobs	270	21,150.
Cargo Express	Wel Supplies	Paint Brushes	125	19,370.
Cargo Express	Wel Supplies	Abrasive Paper	90	6,375.
Plasmo Ltd.	Wel Supplies	Cables	1,879	8,000.
Plastic Pipes	Wel Supplies	PVC Pipes	4,152	78,000.
MRC Wire Products	Wel Supplies	Welded Mesh		95,300.
Mauvilac	Wel Supplies	Paints	1,658	25,000.
Cie des Trans Commer.	Seycom	Frozen Chicken		360,000.

				Rs 1,053,495.
			+ freight	Rs 205,725.

				Rs 1,259,220.

Besides frozen fish, Mauritius imported 104.7 tons of salted fish and snook from South Africa on the "Nahoon" on 4 February. As for Intracorp, it intends to again solicit authorization to import Seychelles salted fish, "the quality of which is recognized by the Mauritians." Intracorp's request will involve 10 tons each trip (every 2 months), besides a new request for 20 tons of frozen fish (captain, carangid and so on) each trip.

As for the Intracorp proposition to the effect that the voyages of the "5 Juin," the Seychelles ship, be taken advantage of to solve the problems presented by the high costs of freight and the difficulty in finding ships to supply the population of Agalega, the Mauritian authorities "have turned a deaf ear," Mr Berenger told us.

The company directed by the secretary general of the Mauritian Militant Movement received a request it wasn't expecting: CASELA approached it to request of the Seychelles authorities authorization to import birds from Seychelles. The Seychelles Ministry of Agriculture responded that, in principal, the exportation of Seychelles birds is strictly forbidden within the framework of the strict policy of Seychelles aimed at protecting its fauna and flora, but that exception could be made for the exportation of a few pairs of birds to Mauritius, notably the Madagascar cardinal, the ground dove and the mynah.

The president of Intracorp is now in Reunion on a dual mission: 1) commercial exchanges (like those with Seychelles) and 2) political questions. Before his departure, Mr Berenger declared to us that Reunion gets massive imports from South Africa, while Mauritius could very well furnish it with products from its local industry.

As for political matters, Mr Berenger's discussions with Reunion authorities, notably Mr Wilfrid Bertile, the Socialist leader, Mr Paul Verges, secretary general of the Reunion Communist Party and the directors of the Reunion Independence Movement (MIR), dealt with the following questions:

--Commercial exchanges between the two islands.

--The EEC/ACP conference in Zimbabwe where resolutions were voted in favor of economic sanctions against South Africa.

--The question of the "scattered islands" of the Indian Ocean.

--The Indian Ocean games that an eventual MMM/PSM [Mauritian Militant Movement/Malagasy Socialist Party] government would organize.

During his discussions in Reunion (see our further reports) Mr Berenger raised with his interlocutors the question of Reunion's status. He reminded us with regard to this that Seychelles presides over a subcommittee of the Liberation Committee of the OAU dealing with Reunion. He declared to us that the OAU "will pronounce itself in favor of the Reunion people's right to self-determination" because "it is the Reunion people and the people alone who must choose their path without outside interference."

9825

CSO: 4719/714

MAURITIUS

PIM'S PLANS TO RUN FOR SEATS IN ELECTION OUTLINED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 23 Feb 82 pp 1,7

[Article: "PIM Will Contest All Seats in Districts With Moslem Majorities"]

[Text] The Mauritian Islamic Party (PIM) decided yesterday at its congress at the Ambassador Hotel in Port Louis to run in the coming legislative elections and to contest all seats in districts that have a Muslim majority, and only one or two seats in the other districts where Muslim candidates would have a chance of being elected. Thus, in the two districts Port Louis South-Port Louis Central (no 2) and Port Maritime-Port Louis East (No 3), the PIM will present three candidates in each of the two districts, especially Pamplemousses-Triolet (No 5), Moka-Quartier Militaire (No 8), Souillac-Riviere des Anguilles (No 13) and La Caverne-Phoenix (No 15). [sentence as published] The party will contest one or two seats.

According to Yousouf Mohamed, one of the leaders of the party, this political strategy will enable the Muslim community to obtain a guaranteed minimum of six seats, if the Muslims of districts 2 and 3 "vote with discipline." In his opinion, the Muslim community is entitled to two seats, considering that it constitutes 17 percent of the Mauritian population.

Invited by a participant at the congress to specify the attitude which the PIM will adopt with respect to the other political groupings after the elections, Mohamed declared that it was too soon to do so. After the election results are announced, the PIM will convoke its delegates to a general meeting to review the country's political situation and to choose, if need be, a partner for an alliance.

No decision, he says, will be made without first consulting the congress participants. A change of tone in the party speakers' language was noted during this congress, which took place before an audience of some 400 persons. In fact, the PIM speakers, especially A. Hyderkhan, Yousouf Mohamed, and Ismael Nawoor, did their utmost to explain to the audience that their political action is guided by Islamic principles. Within the PIM, they say, they work not only for the well-being of the Muslims but also for the country's other minorities, whose rights are being encroached upon by the group of persons in power. By promoting meritocracy, the PIM is fighting

for greater social justice, not only for the Muslim community but for the entire Mauritian population.

Hyderkhan wished to make it clear that the PIM is a political group which respects the Constitution, the laws of the country, and the rights of other communities. "We want to live in peace, in harmony with the country's other ethnic groups. At no time have we ever preached hatred or violence. It is not in our interest to set members of our community against others. We are aware of the hard times that a number of Mauritian families experienced in 1968."

In this context, Hyderkhan declared that he guarantees to the other communities and all the country's political groups, as well as to the authorities, that the PIM will see to it that the understanding and harmony reigning between the different communities will not be disturbed. To the contrary, the PIM intends to step up its appeals to its sympathizers to preserve social peace in the country, not only up until election day but even after. It is important, he underscored, that Muslims not give credence to false rumors propagated by certain agents-provocateurs.

Hyderkhan then expressed his pride at belonging to a purely Muslim party which, according to him, will know how to fight for the interests of the Muslim community. There is no party, he says, which truly fights for Mauritianism in the true sense of the word. Mauritianism, according to him, exists only on paper.

For his part, Yousouf Mohamed asserted that Muslims should unite to realize this community's aspirations to the fullest. In this context, he appealed to the leaders of the Muslim Action Committee not to divide Muslim, particularly at a time when the PIM is struggling for unity. "It's not too late for the CAM to do its duty," he said.

Commenting on Monsignor Margeot's pastoral letter, Mohamed declared that, like any other Mauritian, he sees nothing to criticize in it. Nonetheless, he said, as a disciple of Islam he wishes to make it clear that he does not share Monsignor Margeot's opinion when the latter says that it is important to separate religion from politics. Islam, he says, demands that politics draw its inspiration from religion.

The speaker then condemned the government for having imposed restrictions on the activities of the People's Office of the Libyan Jamahiriya, and he invited the congress participants to pass a resolution calling for these prohibitions to be lifted, as they "constitute interference in the Muslim religion."

Another of Mohamed's arguments: Muslims must unite under the banner of the PIM, which today claims to be the symbol of their unity. In recent years, grave injustices have been committed with regard to Muslims, in that they have lost their leader and are living like orphans. In a way, they have also lost their identity.

Finally, taking up the theme of Muslim unity, Ismael Nawoor stressed the mobilization campaign that the PIM is conducting in order to rally the Muslims under one banner: that of the PIM. The PIM's struggle, he says, is one that aims to restore dignity to Muslims. The coming elections will be only one stage in this long struggle.

9380

CSO: 4719/717

MAURITIUS

CAM OFFICIAL ON MOSLEM SUPPORT OF RAMGOOLAM

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 3 Mar 82 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Razack Peeroo: 'With or Without the Muslims, Ramgoolam Will Return to Power. We Might As Well Join Him'"]

[Excerpts] "The Muslim community has always backed losers and is always in the opposition," he says.

The CAM made an all-out attack yesterday in a severe sortie against the leaders of all political parties--particularly Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the leader of the PT [Labor Party]; Sir Gaetan Duval, the leader of the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party]; Harish Boodhoo, the leader of the PSM [Mauritian Socialist Party]; and Yousouf Mohamed, one of the principal leaders of the PIM [Mauritian Islamic Party]. During a meeting yesterday afternoon in Cite Martial, Razack Peeroo, a CAM [Muslim Action Committee] minister, accused the leaders of the country "of having done nothing for the Muslims." During these past 5 years, he said, he was the only one to raise his voice to protect the dignity of the Muslim community in this country. This is why he will not be reelected in the coming elections in Caverne-Phoenix; the Hindus, he feels, are no longer inclined to give him their votes after the pro-Muslim positions he has taken. He also expects to leave this district and to choose Plaine Verte. But he still thinks that it is in the Muslims' interest to be associated with the power surrounding Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Peero took the opportunity to formulate allegations against the PSM, which, according to him, "is a party of potential turncoats." Nothing says that the prospective PSM deputies will not support Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam if ever the latter finds himself in difficulty in Parliament, according to the speaker. With the support of some PSM deputies, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam could return to power, he alleges.

Peero claims to have precise information on the dates and places of PSM-PT meetings, and he challenged Mr Boodhoo to prove the opposite, if possible.

Giving a chronological account of the CAM struggle, Peeroo explained to his audience that his party has lost strength following the coalitions that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam contracted in the past with Gaetan Duval, the

leader of the PMSD. The coalition of 1969, imposed by France, was made at the expense of the Muslims, who had, however, supported the independence struggle, he says. Now, without the support of the Muslim community, the country would never have obtained independence. Nonetheless, the Muslims have been the first to suffer from it, he says.

Peero then attempted to convince the residents of Cite Martial that the PT will again return to power "with or without the Muslims' support." All the more reason to join it, he says. The MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement]-PSM alliance is doing badly. The Plaine Verte residents should thus be aware of these facts and should not make the same mistake as in 1976 by remaining in the opposition, he insisted. By regrouping under the banner of the CAM and by giving their support to the PT, the Muslims would be in a better position to assert their rights. Then it would no longer be possible for Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam to dare to humiliate him, he says, by telling him, as he too often has had the habit of doing, "You are a Muslim, okay. But Paul Berenger is a leader." Yes, Plaine Verte is giving CAM the necessary support, he says; Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam will no longer be able to use this kind of language toward him. To the contrary, he will find him "a lion."

Next attacking Yousouf Mohamed, Peeroo accused him "of having taking 23 years to realize that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam is not worthy of the Muslims' esteem. This after having been a deputy, a minister, and an ambassador of the Ramgoolam government."

9380

CSO: 4719/717

NIGER

AMBASSADOR TO UN NOTES NATION'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 11 Mar 82 pp 1, 3

[Article: "'Niger Could Become the Leading Uranium Producer in Africa in 1990,' States UN Gavoy"]

[Text] "According to a quite recent estimate, Niger could be the leading African producer of uranium and the fourth [largest] producer in the world in 1990," Ide Oumarou, Nigerien ambassador to the United Nations, disclosed during a recent discussion before the UN French-Speaking Cultural Association.

Ide Oumarou recalled that Niger in 1978 ranked sixth among uranium producers, behind the United States, Canada, South Africa, Namibia, and France, and that it surpassed France in 1979 with production of 3,500 tons.

According to the London Uranium Institute, Niger will have a potential production of 8,000 to 11,000 tons in 1990. In addition, cassiterite (tin ore) constitutes the country's second-ranking mineral resource and, like uranium, contributes to its development.

The Nigerien diplomat also mentioned the lines along which the dynamics of development in our country are evolving today: "The search for self-sufficiency in food, water control, domestic and foreign disenclosure of the country, education and personnel training, the search for increasing improvement of the Nigerien people's situation."

Concerning education, he noted that the percentage of children attending school, which was 4 percent at the time of independence, is today about 20 percent, while the education budget, which was Fr 714 million in 1974, had risen to Fr 5.785 billion in 1979.

Among other notable advancements, Oumarou reported that the minimum wage has risen from CFA 5,200 in 1974 to close to CFA 20,000, "while the farmer, who had been relieved of the minimum income tax for close to 6 years, is seeing his income grow, thanks to the continued improvement in prices to the producer and better marketing of his products, and thanks especially to the development of the cooperatives."

In conclusion, he emphasized the "remarkable improvement" in the Nigerien trade balance, which recorded a surplus of close to Fr 3 billion in 1978--up from a Fr 253 million deficit in 1974--with a 19-percent increase in imports and a 48-percent increase in exports.

9380

CS0: 4719/719

NIGER

BRIEFS

FRG COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED--On Saturday 6 March 1982, two financial cooperation agreements totaling DM 14.6 million (or Fr CFA 1.825 billion) were signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Niger and the Government of the German Federal Republic, represented respectively by His Excellency the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mamane Oumarou, [who is] minister of youth, sports and culture, and by His Excellency Harald Ganns, the FRG ambassador to Niger. The first agreement, totaling DM 13.6 million (or Fr CFA 1.7 billion) is intended for the financing (increase of funds) of the "Radio House" project. An agreement totaling DM 12 million (or Fr CFA 1.5 billion) for this project had already been signed during the visit of FRG Minister of Economic Cooperation Rainer Offergeld to Niamey on 16 January 1981. The second agreement, totaling DM 1 million (or Fr CFA 125 million), is intended for the financing (increase of funds) of the "Tiaguirire Fodder Ranch" project, to which the FRG has already contributed DM 12,075,000 (or Fr CFA 1.51 billion). [Text] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 8 Mar 82 p 1] 9380

MOROCCAN HEALTH AGREEMENT SIGNED--Yesterday in Rabat, the Moroccan and Nigerien ministers of health, Dr Rahali Rahal and Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou, signed a draft agreement concerning the development of cooperation between the two countries in medical matters. [Excerpt] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 12 Mar 82 p 1] 9380

CSO: 4719/719

SENEGAMBIA

DIOUF GIVES INTERVIEW ON RETURN TO DAKAR

AB291045 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 28 Apr 82

[President Abdou Diouf's interview with the press on his return to Dakar on 28 April--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, you have just undertaken a tour which took you to Niger, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Could you tell us whether your respective discussions with President Seyni Kountche, Sultan Qabus al bu Sa'id and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan were fruitful and whether the cooperation between Dakar on one hand and Niamey, Muscat and Abu Dhabi on the other will experience new developments?

[Answer] I thank you very much, Miss (Cornel Dieng) for your question. It is true that I have just undertaken a long journey. I very seldom absent myself from Dakar for 10 days. This journey took me to Naimey, Oman and Abu Dhabi within the framework of our policy of strengthening our old friendships and of expanding the circle of our friendship with other countries. During this tour, I made two stopovers in Paris, the first of which enabled me to hold discussions with the French authorities and particularly with Cooperation and Development Minister Jean-Pierre Cot and Guy Penne, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser for African and Malagasy affairs. The discussions, which took place in an excellent atmosphere, yielded good results and I hope that these were demonstrated to you during the meeting of the French-Senegalese joint commission recently held in Dakar.

In Niger as in Oman and Abu Dhabi, my discussions with my three counterparts--Presidents Seyni Kountche, Sultan Qabus al bu Sa'id and Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates--were very fruitful and achieved excellent results which are in conformity with the objectives we assigned ourselves: the deepening of our political cooperation with these three brotherly states and the intensification of cooperation in other fields and particularly in the economic and cultural fields. In Niger particularly, we signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation. The legal framework of our cooperation with Niger is already vast enough but this friendship and cooperation treaty to which President Seyni Kountche and I attach great importance enables us to demonstrate once again the determination of the two heads of state in conformity with the deep desire of our two peoples to make the

cooperation between Niger and Senegal in exemplary one. The main thing for us now is to utilize this legal framework very appropriately in order to achieve the objectives I have just mentioned.

Concerning the Sultanate of Oman, we have excellent relations with it but unfortunately no legal framework exists to enable the development of cooperation between Senegal and that country. This was why Sultan Qabus and I decided that our two governments should negotiate and sign a cultural cooperation agreement and an economic cooperation agreement. The Senegalese party submitted some projects to the Omani party and very soon we hope to receive in Dakar the visit of the Omani foreign minister who will hold final discussions with his Senegalese counterpart. On this occasion, the two ministers will sign the two agreements which will constitute the legal framework for cooperation between our two countries.

Concerning Abu Dhabi, the legal framework already exists more or less. We have already signed a cultural agreement with Abu Dhabi. During this visit, we proposed a draft economic cooperation agreement as well as a draft protocol relating to the application of the cultural agreement. Here also, the two heads of state agreed on the principle of concluding this agreement and protocol. The Senegalese party submitted some projects to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and discussions will be held to enable us to negotiate and conclude agreements as soon as possible.

Generally speaking, the journey to Niger enabled us to strengthen cooperation with a brotherly African country, especially within the framework of our West African region, and to discuss some current problems. As you know, the most distressing of all these problems is that of the survival of our continental organisation, the OAU. President Seyni Kountche and I examined this important problem in detail and decided to spare no effort to avoid the break-up of our continental organisations. [Passage mostly indistinct concerning rivalry with in the ruling Socialist Party.]

CSO: 4719/866

BRIEFS

REELECTION OF JAWARA EXPECTED--Tomorrow Gambians will go to the poll to elect their president and members of parliament for the next 5 years. But for the first time, the legislative and the presidential elections will be held separately in accordance with the recent amendment to the constitution adopted by the National Assembly. Two candidates are running for the presidency. They are outgoing President Dr Dawda Jawara, secretary general of the People's Progressive Party, and National Convention Party leader Sherif Mustapha Dibba who is now in detention for participating in the coup attempt of July 1981. However predictions give President Jawara a big margin of victory. As a matter of fact, it seems that he has succeeded in mobilizing his countrymen, still in shock from last July's bloody events, around the slogan "peace and stability." Everyone thinks that President Jawara will be reelected. Meanwhile his popularity has continued to increase throughout the country over the past 9 months. The massive support given him by his countrymen after the last helicopter crash which he survived is glaring evidence of this that Gambians seem to see their president in a new light. [Text] [AB040649 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 3 May 82]

CAMEROONIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT--The Cameroonian head of state, Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo, arrived in Dakar this morning accompanied by his wife to start a private visit. He was welcomed by President Abdou Diouf who was with the prime minister, the chairman of the Economic and Social Council as well as cabinet members. [Text] [AB032215 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 3 May 82]

OAU'S KODJO CONFERS WITH DIOUF--Dakar, 5 May (AFP)--OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo conferred here Tuesday with one of his leading critics, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Conservative Senegal is among the states opposing as "politically untimely" Mr Kodjo's action last February in admitting the (Western) Saharan Arab Republic to an OAU ministerial meeting, which was effective recognition. The OAU has been split over the issue since then. Mr Kodjo was met at the airport here by Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse and then went straight to his hotel. The local press has not mentioned his visit. [Text] [AB050730 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 5 May 82]

CSO: 5700/1163

VIOLENCE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN REPORTED

London WEST AFRICA in English 26 Apr 82 pp 1115, 1117

[Text]

SIERRA LEONE's preparation for the General Elections now scheduled to be held May 1 has been characterised by unprecedented violence and scores of protests over the eligibility of some of the candidates. The whole episode, which has been described as a "hotch potch of confusion" by political analysts, makes nonsense of President Stevens' claimed *raison d'être* for the overthrow of the multi-party system in place of the One Party system of government.

In an address to Parliament after the One Party Referendum in June 1978, President Stevens said: "Today, after some two score years in politics, it is my considered view that the multi-party system with government and opposition, contributes an open invitation to anarchy and disunity . . . We have banned a system which institutionalised tribal or ethnic quinquennial warfare euphemistically known as elections . . . We have done away with an unnecessary system."

Far from putting an end to the "quinquennial warfare", the One Party system seems to have aggravated violence and anarchy, as experienced in several areas throughout the country during preparations for the first General Elections under the One Party system.

In Port Loko district, which is traditionally known for war since the days of Bai Bureh the legendary warrior of Kasse chiefdom, severe trouble broke out as the incumbent MP, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. A. B. Kamara's, supporters employed various tactics to prevent his opponents from filing in their nomination papers for the primaries. His house in Kasse was attacked by thugs, and his two nephews shot. One of them had to be hospitalised at the Intensive Care Unit

of Connaught Hospital in Freetown, and the other at the Hill Station hospital. Reports from the constituency say that late in the night before the appointed day for nominations for the primaries, Mr. A. B. Kamara had the nominations concluded unbeknown to his opponents. Two of his "men" were nominated, and the two men, as planned, then cancelled their intention to contest the election on Nomination Day to return the Attorney General unopposed.

The same constituency (Port Loko North) witnessed the beating of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdulai Conteh. Dr. Conteh had secured his own seat unopposed in the primaries in Kambia West constituency and was travelling to Kasse to assist the Attorney General, his brother-in-law, in his campaign when he was attacked. He was reported to have been dragged out of his vehicle and given a good beating. Dr. Conteh's fellow Susu tribesmen, on hearing about the attack, rallied round him on his return to the Western area and over one thousand of them accompanied him to State House to lodge a complaint about the attack. The delegation urged President Stevens to take firm action to suppress violence in the forthcoming General Elections.

In the Bombali North constituency, two people are reported to have been shot dead during skirmishes between supporters of Works Minister, Mr. Edward Kargbo, and his opponents. (Mr. Kargbo's brother, Mr. Bockarie Kargbo, Director of Planning the Bank of Sierra Leone, died in a road accident while travelling to Bombali to assist his brother in his campaign. The tyres of Mr. Kargbo's Range Rover in which he was travelling when the accident occurred are said to have been fired by a

"witch gun".)

In the Bombali Central constituency, it was open warfare between supporters of Social Welfare Minister and lawyer, Mr. Thaimu Bangura, and his opponents Dr. A. B. Timbo and Edward Turay, both of them also lawyers. To prevent his opponents from filing their nomination papers for the primaries, Mr. Bangura's supporters are said to have damaged several bridges leading to the area for the nomination. The team of supervisors from the Central Committee had to change their venue from Bombali Central to Makeni Town and delay the primaries by one day to give a chance for all contenders to file in their papers. The result of the nomination for the primaries announced over the wires had excluded the names of the two lawyer opponents, who allegedly came fourth and fifth when the votes were counted. However, when the list of candidates for the General Elections were announced their names were included, while the two other candidates whose names had previously been announced had been dropped.

Bombali West constituency was also the scene of bitter fighting and thuggery. According to reports from the district, two people lost their lives.

Kambia South constituency which is being contested by Dr. Jengo Stevens, a son of the President, and Mr. A. B. Sankoh, the incumbent MP, also had its share of clashes.

In Pujehun West constituency, Dr. I. A. Bangura, who is opposing the Minister of Health, Mr. Francis Minah, found it extremely difficult to file his nomination papers for the primaries. There were several reports of clashes between supporters of the two candidates. The first announcement of the result of the primaries did not list the name of Dr. Bangura on the list of candidates but it was put in after the Central Committee had scrutinised the list.

In Freetown Central I constituency supporters of Mr. Alfred Akibo-Betts are alleged to have damaged the house of his opponent, Mr. W. Morgan. In Freetown East II, terror reigned when supporters of the incumbent MP, Alhaji Bun Mansaray, attacked the homes of rival candidates Abdul Iscandri and Manso Dumbuya. Mr. Dumbuya's car was damaged and an

attempt was made to set Mr. Iscandri's house on fire. The police had to disperse angry crowds with tear gas and Alhaji Mansaray and his supporters taken to the CID where they were detained.

Clashes were reported in several other constituencies throughout the country. As a result of the violence, it was decided by senior party officials during a hurried meeting that all nominations for the elections should be held in Freetown. This unprecedented move was made to stave off further fighting. The date for the nominations was also shifted from April 14 to 15, to give enough time to Returning Officers and candidates to travel to Freetown.

Throughout Nomination Day heavily-armed police patrolled the streets of Freetown to maintain law and order. The Nomination Centres were also very heavily guarded. The day was generally peaceful, except for a few minor incidents, including the looting of a provision store owned by Balani & Sons at Krootown Road.

A broadcast by government expressed concern over the free-for-all violence, and called on citizens in possession of arms and ammunition without valid licences to surrender them "immediately" at the nearest police station. It said that it was illegal for people to keep arms and or ammunition, and warned that those found in possession of arms will face the full penalty of the law.

The Elections are expected to bring in much needed funds to government's coffers. For the primary elections, which were contested by about four hundred people, each candidate was required to pay Le 200 in addition to all membership dues and other financial party obligations backdated twelve months. Candidates for the General Elections are required to pay Le 500.

Party sources say that senior party officials are beginning to question the wisdom of holding primary elections, with all their attendant problems, and that the Constitution may have to be amended to remove the idea.

Whatever happens, it is now widely acknowledged that multi-party or One Party, the main characteristic of quinquennial elections in Sierra Leone is family warfare, bitterness, violence and chaos as has been the case in the General Elections of 1967, 1973, 1977 and 1982.

PRESIDENT SIAD CONGRATULATES ARMY

Mogadishu HEEGAN in English 16 Apr 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

MOGADISHU, Thursday — The General Secretary of the SRSP and President of the SDR, Jaalle Mohamed Siad Barre on Monday sent a congratulatory message to the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, Soldiers and their families on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Somali National Army.

In his message, the President said that 12 April marks the Somali National Army's Day and has great significance in the modern history and social life of the Somali Nation.

There is no doubt, the Somali National Army has the necessary quality and quantity to fulfill its responsibility and as a result of this, the masses are in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility effectively contributing in nation-building» stressed the

President.

Jaalle Siad underlined that the occasion of the 22nd anniversary coincides at a time when there are critical issues in the world in general and the Horn in particular, adding that, for this reason, all members of the Somali armed forces have to effectively increase their revolutionary zeal and dedication to perform their sacred duties.

On occasion the President wished members of National Army wherever they are, success for the heavy tasks ahead.

Likewise, the SDR Minister for Information and National Guidance Col. Mohamed Omar Jess sent a message of congratulations to the Somali National Army on the occasion of their 22nd anniversary.

Meanwhile, earlier in the night the First Vice President and Minister

of Defence of the SDR, Lt. General Mohamed Ali Samatar congratulated the Somali Armed forces and their families on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Somali Armed forces day.

In an address to members of the armed forces, Jaalle Samater pointed out the vanguard role played by the forces in the defence and the general development of the country. The First Vice President stated that the Armed forces had to overcome insurmountable problems by sheer courage and extra vigilance, adding that they won respect and commendation from both the leaders and the public for their sense of political consciousness and excellent training.

In speaking about the Horn of Africa problems, the Defence Minister declared that Russia was behind the tripartite conference held in South Yemen between Libya, Abyssinia and South Yemen which, he said, was a Russian strategy aimed at destabilizing the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea.

Jaalle Samater continued that the recent war, codenamed the Red Star Campaign which the Abyssinian forces and their allies unleashed

against Eritrea is one of the resolutions reached by them in Aden, adding, however, that they only ~~met with defeat~~ and humiliation at the hands of the Eritreans.

The Defence Minister stated that this unholy alliance is one geared to invade the Somali Democratic Republic in accordance with the Russian strategy in the Horn of Africa in order to create instability in the region and to realize its strategic interests.

In concluding his speech, Jaalle Samater further stated that the Somali Armed forces, side by side with the public, the ever-vigilant in the defence and safeguarding of our nationhood, adding that it was certainly that provocation from any quarter was bound to meet with defeat.

The First Vice President and Defence Minister, accompanied by the Commander of the Somali Police Forces, Major General Aden Abdi Du'ale and Commander of the Custodial Corps, Major General Ismail Ahmed Ismail earlier in the day laid bouquets at the Monuments of the Unknown Soldier, Hawo Tako, Dagahtur, and Sayid Mohamed Abdulle Hassan.

ARMY URGED TO LEARN GUERRILLA TACTICS

Mogadishu HEEGAN in English 16 Apr 82 p 3

[Article by Abdi Haji Mohamed]

[Text]

An army is an organized body of soldiers trained to defend a nation or attack its enemies. There are two types of armies. There is the professional or regular army and there is the conscript army. The Somali National Army, true and worthy son of the people, is a professional standing army that sees to the defence of the Fatherland, to the defence of the Revolution.

Seeing endangered the sovereignty and the very existence of the Somali nation; the Somali National Army, in collaboration with the other branches of the Armed Forces, staged a bloodless revolution and assumed power on October 21st, 1969. Somalia was on the verge of disintegration and would have gone down the precipice but for the timely intervention of the National Army. After

carrying out all the measures announced to the Somali people in the First Charter of the Revolution, the National Army duly handed power over to a popularly elected Government.

The National Army was the only major faction of our society that was not affected by the rampant tribalism and corruption that reigned supreme during the first nine years following our independence. It was precisely due to this circumstance that the National Army was able to carry out the 21st October Revolution. Unity of action, singleness of purpose and impeccable moral purity won the day.

The Somali National Army effectively guarantees defence of our territorial integrity. Time and again, at Yeed, Borama and other points along the defacto border, Ethio-

pian Armed forays into our territory have met with decisive, utter and devastating repulsion by the Somali National Army. It is not without reason that the name of the National Army evokes terror and despair in the mind of the enemy. Let the enemy tremble.

It is not numbers or even weapons that determine victory. The man behind the weapon is what counts most. Does he believe in what he is fighting for? Is he fighting for a rightful cause? Those who fight for a just and worthy cause will defeat their enemy with his own weapons. All the wars of liberation testify to that fact. Take Afghanistan. A hegemonist superpower has failed to bring the freedom fighters there to their knees. Russia is anxious today for a face-saving arrangement to pull out of Afghanistan.

During droughts, floods or epidemics, the Somali people have come to depend on their Army for prompt and effective rescue operations. The Army is a tireless and willing servant of the people. Service in the National Army carries high prestige as well as heavy responsibility.

The excellent fighting quality of the Somali War-

rior is recognized all over the world. But excellence does not spring out of nothingness. It must have some basis in the material world. The Somali Warrior's high fighting worth can be attributed to several factors. First among them is his Islamic faith which represents defence of the motherland as a sacred duty that is amply rewarded in the hereafter. Secondly, the Somali fighter is angry at the dismemberment of his country by the colonialists in the last century. He realizes that colonialism comes in the many colours but that its essence is the same.

He is convinced that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. This, plus the rigours of nomadic life make of the Somali fighter a first-rate soldier stuff.

The Somali military man cannot but take into consideration that certain powers that once were considered supporters of just causes have discarded their masks and are openly conducting a barefaced imperialist gunboat policy of a crude kind.

On this happy occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Somali National Army I wish to convey to them, together with my heartfelt congratulations,

two suggestions for consideration. First, we need to unite our capacity for waging a protracted war from reliance on imported sophisticated technology. Because such technology is very expensive to buy. Because such technology requires heavy maintenance and operation expenses. Because spare parts for such technology is not always available. You might even be refused spare-parts just when you are in the middle of a major defensive war. Besides all that, tanks and airplanes consume tremendous quantities of fuel. And the energy problem is too well-known to require any further elaboration. For those reasons, it would be a welcome development to see more camel corps and cavalry regiments in our Army. Of course, tanks and airplanes are necessary, but we must not depend on them.

Cavalry had been used for the first attack on enemy lines ever since the days of Alexander the Great. But when new firearms, specially the machine gun, were introduced, the cavalry could no longer be used to lead attacks. But that does not mean that cavalry has to be discarded altogether. With the money necessary to buy, maintain and operate ten modern tanks, you can set up a whole cavalry regiment. Arm

about ten percent (10%) of the regiment with bazookas, and they will repulse two whole tank battalions.

Secondly, I suggest that our army be given a thorough training in the theory and practice of guerrilla warfare. This should be incorporated in the training programme of the National Army. Just to make our defence doubly sure. Countries such as Yugoslavia have opted for guerrilla training of their armed forces. That is one of the reasons why potential aggressors have to think twice or thrice before trying their Afghanistan-type antics on Yugoslavia or the People's Republic of China. Because the aggressors know that beating the regular army in conventional war would not be enough. They would still have a country-wide guerrilla war at their hands. The implementation of such a programme will require time and effort. But the journey of ten thousand miles begins with the first-step. Weaning our army from too much dependence on sophisticated expensive foreign technology on the one hand and giving guerrilla training to our soldiers, on the other hand, will significantly increase our defensive capacity. And.... Forward March! to ever greater glory.

ISHA BAYDHABO'S RESOURCES UNDERUTILIZED

Mogadishu HEEGAN in English 16 Apr 82 p 4

[Article by Ahmed Artan]

[Text]

Isha Baydhabo, the administrative centre of the Bay region of Somalia has certain economic and cultural advantages which this town could rightly be proud of. The modern designation of the town is composed of the combination of the two terms of Isha + Baydhabo which are often spelt differently by Somalis and foreigners alike. In the old colonial maps of Somalia «Baidoa» is marked which is an obvious misspelling of the correct native name of the place, that is «Bay + dhu» = Baydhu. The modern form «Baydhabo» or Baydhaba is also incorrect. In this article we shall keep the form «Baydhu» for it is historically correct. To prove this point a bit of linguistic research is called for.

The local people distin-

guish two kinds of soil formation in that region, called «Bay» and Doy, the black and brown-coloured soil, respectively. The former area is suitable for farming and is generally the flat land along the rivers; whereas the latter is good for grazing livestock and is mostly mountainous, woodlands lying beyond the farmlands. The main distinguishing feature between the two ecological areas is the colour of the soil. The two sorts of soil formation often overlap into each other. Thus the term «Baydhu» signifies the «nearer Bay» beyond which there is to be found still another Bay area after crossing over a «doy» lands.

In the «May» dialect spoken in central Somalia (including the town of Baydhu) the ending ow (dhow) becomes u

(dhu) and the combination of the terms Bay + dhu = Baydhu is formed, which is, as we said earlier, the correct name of the town. Due to the adoption of the form «Baidoa» by the colonial administrations and the northern Somali usage of the form «Baydhabo», the correct topographical name (Baydhu) had been misspelt so much so that it almost lost its original form. Many Somali topographical names (viz. Burao = Burco, Garoe = Garoowe) had suffered the same fate, namely due to mispronunciation by foreigners, as well as to historico-cultural ignorance on the part of the Somalis themselves.

The first part of the compound name «Isha» literally means «eye», but it also has the abstract meaning of an «spring, a fountain». An underground spring gushes from the ground in the dry riverbed that runs from the north to south and cuts the town in two halves. The spring is the main source of water supply for Baydhu. From the rocky riverbed springs up the water, cool and pure as rain-water, and you drink it straight from the source with

your cupped palms, bending down on your knees. **You take your fill and realize how at times Mother Nature is bountiful so that life could be maintained on earth.**

During the rainy seasons the Isha riverbed is filled up with floodwaters and it drains into the flat farmlands lying to the south of the town. But in the dry period before the rains come the Isha dwindles to a minimum flow and the Baydhuans may then experience an acute water shortage.

In the well-watered riverbed various tropical fruits, such as bananas, mangoes, pawpaws, lemons etc. grow abundantly. The climate is mild on this high plateau where Baydhu is situated, and it is a bit chilly here for those coming from the coastal areas like Mogadishu. Under such ideal climate most of these tropical fruits could be grown throughout the year.

It is interesting that grapes also grow here and thrive well. The grape plant is a creeper and entwines itself onto other plants with stronger stems for support. When raw the fruits are pale-

green in colour but become purple or black when ripe.

Vinculture is a neglected art in Somalia as a whole and the Baydhuans do not commercially exploit their grape resources by producing wine from them. The fruits grow wild generally in the dry seasons and the small quantities harvested are consumed in its natural form as table fruits. Some dried grapes are also used as spice in rice dishes to give it aromatic flavour.

Same as in many other regions of the country considerable changes have taken place in the town of Baydhu itself during the last few years. New lands were reclaimed and developed on the outskirts of the old town, with the essential civic amenities, such as water supply, electricity, tarmac roads etc. The town is presently growing rapidly towards the «Maanyafuulka» area in the east and all along the Baydhu — Xamar highway new commercial and administrative premises are being raised.

The «Gerbi» swimming pool is situated in a short distance from the Isha spring and it is a tourist attraction of which the

Baydhuans could rightly be proud of. The floodwaters running in the stream drop down abruptly over a rockwall of about 6 — metres high to a flat ground below. At the foot of this granite rock a large reservoir of about 3 metres deep is formed. For a long period after the rain water is preserved in this natural reservoir which has an impervious rocky floor. Domestic animals are watered here in the dry season, housewives wash their laundry in the Gerbi which is a vital gift of Nature to Baydhuans. Another important use of the pool is that youngsters learning how to swim practise here most of the day. The more daring swimmers climb up the steep cliffs above the water and then jump headlong into the pool in the graceful style of an accomplished sportsman. No wonder Baydhu had produced a number of strong swimmers who often carried off the coveted trophies at the inter-regional swimming competitions.

The Baydhuans were in the past reputed to have been hardworking citizens whose region often occupied in the forefront in the food production efforts of the nation. That high reputation of

the region is being compromised by the many young people of both sexes whom the writer saw jewing «qad» day and night, sitting idle on the dusty footpaths, street corners and in the dark recesses of dwellings. Most of these youthful, able-bodied people are hopeless qad-addicts, a liability to the nation. An old Baydhuan saying declares:

AF WAA KAN

MAY LIKI AAMEE'

(no use having a mouth when you can't feed yourself).

CSO: 4700/1158

BRIEFS

TORRENTIAL RAINS HIT BERBERA--Mogadishu, Thursday--The recent torrential rains that hit Berbera and its surrounding areas have left seven people dead and also claimed eight thousand sheep and five hundreded camels. Berbera's Party Secretary, Jaalle Ahmed Sheikh Abdullahi Said earlier this week that seven government offices, 15 dwelling houses owned by the local people and about 40 Km. tarmac road that links Hargeisa with Berbera were swept away by the flood. Speaking to SONNA, Jaalle Ahmed said that the storms and the severe floods swept three cars, thus disrupting the district's communication network. He said that both the regional and district officials visited the flood-stricken areas in order to supervise rescue operations. [Text] [Mogadishu HEEGAN in English 16 Apr 82 p 2]

MAMMOTH RALLY FOR PALESTINIANS--Mogadishu, Thursday--A mammoth demonstration condemning the recent wanton Israeli action against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the persecution of the Palestinian people was held at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier square in Mogadishu on Wednesday. The demonstrators, numbering hundred of thousands consisted of Social organizations, students, workers, and the general public of the Benadir Region. The Assistant Secretary-General of the SRSP and Third Vice President of the SDR, Jaalle Ismail Ali Abokor, who delivered a speech on the occasion, exhaustively related the history of the various stages the Islamic Religion had passed through and the constant struggle waged by Muslims all over the world for the Expansion and strengthening of Islam. Jaalle Abokor Stated that the SDR is ready to extend both moral and material support to their Palestinian brothers whose rights have been denied by Israel. "The Somali people who are hundred per cent Muslim wish to demonstrate here their profound shock at the Israel shooting at and killing of people in the Al-Aqsa mosque, and therefore condemn that wanton act," said Jaalle Abokor. [Excerpt] [Mogadishu HEEGAN in English 16 Apr 82 p 1]

CSC: 4700/1158

LOOK AT WAGE-PRICE SPIRAL

Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAIN in French 15 Feb 82 p 5

[Article by Celestin Zongo]

[Text] Mr Edmond Ky, minister of finances, announced a wage increase for 1982 and since then, all workers have waited impatiently. When Col Saye Zerbo gave the nation his best wishes on 29 December 1981, he confirmed the good news. Each wage earner then certainly looked at his last pay slip and carefully calculated his raise: "Now I can indulge in a little extra; at the end of the month I can begin my project...."

But people became disillusioned very quickly. First, because experience has shown that wage increases arouse the hideous monster of speculation: restaurant owners, tailors, gas station attendants, landlords, small and big merchants sharpen their teeth to gouge the worker. The last wage increase dating from the time of the defunct republic, like the others, translated into an actual drop in the worker's buying power. The government at the time "decided to express its concern about buying power by a series of measures that represented a (so-called) profound, more extensive, more decisive action. We will not get bogged down in the maze of steps and indexes; we should remember that category A civil servants received a 6 percent increase, category B, an 8 percent; category C, a 12 percent; category D, 18 percent and the inter-occupational guaranteed minimum wage increased 25 percent. Despite these different increases, the workers deplored the decreased buying power compared with the subsequent raise.

Imaginary Wage Increase

The desire is to allow all workers to cope with the cost of living, considering their real, (essential) needs in each category. It seems that the proportional wage increase has not and does not completely solve the problem of inequities: instead, it makes them worse because the subordinate pays the same price for soap as the high-ranking civil servant. One person can earn 100 times more than another and this does not include the benefits one receives and the other does not.

For example, A cadres (A1 and A2 together) earn an average of 80,000 francs a month and both gain 7,200 francs more, a 10 percent increase while the

interoccupational guaranteed minimum wage earner (15,600 francs) only receives an additional 4,000 francs. It is apparent at a glance that the wages of category A civil servants are increased by half of what the minimum wage earner makes a month. Even if it now appears that most workers get more than the minimum wage, the evolution of salaries does not always allow low income workers to keep up with spiraling inflation. The increase from 10 to 15 percent is admirable but unfortunately, in real life, the middle and low-ranking professionals will have difficulty weathering the storm and the overall picture is not encouraging. Who then is better equipped to cope with inflation? Who benefited from the wage increase? Many of us wage earners will still be frustrated because everything will cost a little more. This uneasiness is based on experience of the not-too-distant past which teaches that the price of goods will increase.

Meanwhile to bridge the gap between workers, a gap created purely by their respective buying powers, could we not consider another approach? In other words, convert the proportional increase formula into a lump-sum increase formula. To give an example, civil servants in category D earning 30,488 francs would receive an increase of 20,000 francs while those in category A earning 100,000 francs would get a 2,000 franc raise. Those who want, can go back to a proportional formula: the important thing is that we realize or better endorse the fact that low-ranking employees need large increases more than the professionals. Then we would be moving toward a true readjustment.

Real Price Increase

It is quite possible that the current formula will enable the small wage earner, with some limitations and sacrifices, to satisfy most of his needs. However, all the government's efforts to alleviate the workers' poverty may be threatened if, first, the government does not enact stringent measures against future, unjustified price increases and, second, if trade flourishes at the expense of the workers. In other words, business wipes out the efforts of the government to create a climate conducive to work through wage increases. Denied his benefit, the worker is tempted to demand still more, not from the merchant, but from the state which has rightly turned its attention elsewhere for the moment, believing the problem solved for the long term. This causes conflict between the "richer," starving wage earner and the generous but weakened state. This vicious circle is worse than pernicious and each Upper Voltan must have wondered how to get out of it. What everyone can hope for is that government will control prices and price increases on goods relative to wage increases. Moreover, merchants have not always waited for such raises to increase prices. Consumers very rapidly note anomalies signaling the coming increases: the amazing disappearance of some products like sugar, rice, millet, etc. Only the regulars get supplies. One person might say, "Another 50 francs, sir, it is now 200 francs" or "the rent on my house will be 20,000 francs as of the end of the month," although housing allowances have not increased at all. The reply to all this is: "Haven't you heard salaries are going up?" Another consequence is that non-salaried workers end up holding the bag and private sector employees also suffer the effects. This is a sorry situation.

The true solution and the most lethal weapon against unregulated price hikes and for enhanced buying power of the workers and the citizens would be a merciless struggle against all speculators from the merchant in the market place right up to the big merchandisers.

When the authorities begin a true campaign against speculation, all Upper Voltans will benefit by supporting the effort; then all can live from their work and the merchant from his legitimate profits. It will be unacceptable for business to be synonymous with legalized "illicit, speculation." We will not be able to complain continually among ourselves about the Prince Control Unit without registering a complaint against shopkeeper who exploits us. There is no defense unless there is a plaintiff. Wages should shrink at the top and increase at the bottom; if this effort is accompanied by vigorous price control, the resulting social climate would cause the citizen to have more confidence in himself and in the future.

9479

CSO: 4719/700

PRESIDENTIAL TOUR OF COUNTRY

Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAIN in French 15 Feb 82 p 3

[Article by Luc-Adolphe Tiao: "A Breath of Fresh Air for People in Remote Areas"]

[Text] The presidential party engaged in a real rally of approximately 1,500 km in a week over roads and trails from Ouagadougou to Ouargaye, Arly, Senkanse and back to Ouagadougou, visiting over 50 villages and towns. On his fourth tour to the interior of the country, the head of state, Col Seye Zerbo visited the departments of the center, center-east and the east from 24 to 30 January 1982.

Accompanied by a number of military committee members, government officials and department heads, Colonel Zerbo wanted to observe once again what it is really like for people in the interior.

Have you ever scraped a dried-up river bed hoping for a drop of water? We saw this happen in a remote village somewhere between Yargartenga and Senkanse in the subregion of Bittou.

That day many women spent the whole day at the only water distribution point in the village.

Undeniably, the water shortage was the most crucial problem that came to the attention of the presidential party. Dried up rivers, streams and wells were what they saw almost everywhere.

At Ouargaye, the subprefect said that herdsmen had to travel more than 50 km to find water in Togo. The village of Ouada, a few km from Bittou, had almost no water although stock raising constitutes 97 percent of the population's activities.

The people clamored insistently for water, "the source of life."

The Specter of Diseases

Villages are susceptible to the slightest epidemic. There is almost no health infrastructure. At Toesse, a village 65 km from Ouagadougou, the dispensary is only 8 square meters.

Lacking ambulances, people in some areas transport their sick by cart to nearby dispensaries.

When the infrastructures exist, they are not always operational. The impressive hospital of Zabre is unfinished. The operating room and the X-ray department of the Tenkodogo hospital sit idle for lack of staff. The inhabitants of the border areas prefer to be treated in the hospitals of Togo, Benin or Ghana.

"There are 22 villages and only 1 school." This was on a banner waved by the school children of Sanga when the president arrived in the main town in this district.

The people have always asked the military committee about the shortage of schools, a widespread problem. Hundreds of thousands of children face failure because they do not live in towns and villages with schools. In some cases, the peasants have tried to solve the problem by building one-room schools but these efforts lead nowhere since the villagers are often left to their own resources.

Isolation: A Bottleneck

Besides these serious problems, most districts in the departments of the center-east and the east are isolated. All means of communication are inadequate. The presidential party spent almost 2 hours traveling from Sanga to Ouargaye (40 km).

In the rainy season, we were told, Ouargaye is completely cut off. It easily takes 7 hours to travel from Zabre to Manga (70 km).

People in Pama cross the Dapango into Togo to get to Senkanse.

The faulty telephone system prevents local administration officials from being in constant contact with the government departments.

Yet these regions have considerable economic potential. Farming is very profitable from Zabre to Garango. The villages of Niagho and Beguedo are known for their large onion and various truck garden crops. The area between Pama and Arly is criss-crossed with mountains and dramatic cliffs, places to attract tourists.

If nature seems unkind to these villages in some areas, the people had something to do with it. Brush fires devastated the entire area we covered from Nagbagre to Arly. Even the national forest and park of Arly were hit by the fire. This is a true ecological disaster for the entire country.

The head of Upper Volta is certainly concerned about all these problems. As in previous visits, Colonel Zerbo has opted for a realistic strategy. The people must be rallied to the 25 November movement but not at the price of demagogic promises. "We know your problems," he said. Given the current

situation, Upper Volta, which must rely on international cooperation, does not have the resources to solve all these problems immediately, implied Colonel Zerbo.

Yet the head of state feels that together "we will overcome these problems." To achieve this, he lists several conditions.

End Old Quarrels

Upper Voltans must unite, forget past political quarrels and work assiduously. When necessary, he acts directly as a mediator. He thus let the inhabitants of the villages of Niagho and Beguedo know it was absurd to fight over the location of a district office. He added, "What unites you is more important than what divides you." Likewise, he encouraged the villages of Madjoari and Tambarga to resolve their old misunderstandings.

Next the CMRPN [Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress] president told the peasants that they had to rely primarily on their own initiative. "Take the initiative," he said, "and the state will assist you."

In each village, Colonel Zerbo reminded the people of the dangers of brush fires. He repeated everywhere that very harsh penalties would soon be imposed on the offenders.

Support Action Committee

Finally, the head of state urged everyone to join and support the action and development committees the CMRPN is setting up throughout the country since he realizes that the ambitious 1 May program can be carried out only with a solid base.

Whatever their woes, many people greeted the head of state and his party warmly and enthusiastically. Men, women and children applauded the president of the military committee in the burning midday heat or on chilly evenings.

Like the banner posted leaving Bittou which said, "Do not forget Bittou, long live the CMRPN," our compatriots in the interior affirmed their complete allegiance to the Upper Voltan head of state. This is a major objective of the president as he travels around the country.

9479

CSO: 4719/700

LABOR UNION ACTIVITY REPORT

Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAINE in French 20 Jan 82 p 10

[Article by Sylvestre Some: "Trade Union Councils and Congresses: Hopes and Illusions about a 'Social Contract'"]

[Text] Although the present labor situation alone justified the extraordinary trade union council held by SYNAGRI [National Union of Agricultural Agents] on 2 January 1982, the trade union council of SUVESS [Sole Voltan Union of Teachers of Secondary and Higher Education] held on 28 and 29 December 1981 and the congress of SNEAHV [National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta] from 27 to 31 December 1981, both statutory meetings, also had to confront recent changes in the trade union situation.

Congress of the Fighters

Since its theme was "School and Production," the 27th SNEAHV congress was not convened about the labor situation but the latter seriously influenced the course of the meeting. So much so that in his closing speech, the secretary general, Mr Hamidou Baba Ouedraogo (reelected) omitted or felt it unnecessary to review the main points of the theme. Perhaps this congress deliberately did not discuss it because the so-called "congress of the fighters," was particularly contentious. This partially explains why it opened a day late. In his speech, the secretary general explained that the postponement was needed to "squell the harmful activity of some individuals who were trying to use the union for other ideological purposes." For some time, the SNEAHV has been pulled by strong centrifugal forces; as soon as the congress opened, pamphlets were circulated about its members and the Upper Voltan trade union movement (in reference to the letter supporting the CMRPN [Military Committee on Recovery for National Progress] dated 7 December 1981).

The congress overcame the deadlock, according to the secretary general "because vigilant members facilitated the renegades' suspension."

The 27th congress passed a resolution on the labor situation regarding the ordinance banning strikes; it recommended that the national headquarters urge authorities to abrogate this ordinance once and for all. "Most members at the congress urged caution" about possible coordination of activities with the other unions, continued the secretary general.

The USVESS trade union council, on the other hand, held on 28-29 December, was particularly critical in its analysis of the labor situation and the prospects for a "social contract." In his opening speech, Mr Ba Sambo Youssouf, the union's secretary general, painted a gloomy picture of living conditions and the labor outlook since the coup d'etat of 25 November 1980--the ban on meetings and suppression of the right to strike, dismantling of the CSV [Voltan Trade Union Confederation], warrant for the arrest of its secretary-general, fines or prison sentences for those striking in defiance of the ban, and threats to disband unions--in this situation, continued the secretary general, "our council will have to find ways to deal with the CMRPN's repressive measures against the trade unions...and kinds of struggle to obtain the demands made at the 10th congress."

In the conclusions of their proceedings, the council criticized "possible illusions about a 'social contract' when the two contracting parties are not equally free."

The council then urged that its members "continue the work of mobilization," "the search for the broadest possible unity with other trade unions" and proposed "a general work stoppage until all union rights are restored."

The SYNAGRI extraordinary council resulted in the same--or nearly the same--resolutions. There were three items on the agenda--the national trade union situation, status of the demands and the positions of two union officials. The council passed motions, resolutions and recommendations on defending union rights through call for mobilization to act on every order given by the unions which signed the solemn declaration of 17 November 1981.

They reiterate the labor demands which the 12th congress approved and demand that a disciplinary council meet to discuss the two members who were "arbitrarily fired."

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BRIEFS

BOTHA-KUANDA BORDER TALKS WELCOMED--Lusaka, 30 Apr (AFP)--The Zambian press today welcomed talks taking place between President Kenneth Kuanda and South Africa Prime Minister Pieter Botha along the border between Botswana and South Africa. Commenting on the meeting, at which the two leaders are expected to discuss wide range of issues affecting the Southern African region, the government owned DAILY MAIL said there was nothing wrong or strange about the talks. "The two leaders will after all be discussing well known subjects to Africa and the international community--South Africa's refusal to grant independence to the peoples of Namibia and her oppression of the black people in South Africa itself," the MAIL said. The country's only other daily, the INDEPENDENT TIMES OF ZAMBIA, noted that the meeting could be the beginning of the process for peace "and humanity in the region." The TIMES said "It is a noble aim which should be supported at all levels by all reasonable people. It is in this vein that we commend the courage and sincere concern shown by South Africa in allowing the Kuanda-Botha meeting to take place." [Text] [AB301135 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 30 Apr 82]

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